

US Gaelic Athletic Association



Minutes of 2017 USGAA Annual Convention

November 10-12, 2017
Virginia Beach, Virginia.

www.usgaa.org

Note: Draft pending adoption at USGAA Convention

Friday November 10th, 8pm.

Youth Officers Report – presented by Liam Hegarty.

Report was adopted as presented.

Registrar's Report – presented by Lizzie O'Connor.

Report was adopted as presented.

PRO Report – presented by Brian White.

Jen O'Brien asked about the future of the Magner's sponsorship;
This was addressed by Gareth Fitzsimons.

Vincent Beach enquired as to any future changes to the USGAA Logo;
Brian White addressed this matter.

Report was adopted as presented.

Update on 501(c)3 Regulations – presented by Liam Hegarty.

At 9:30pm the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, November 11th

Saturday, November 12th, 9am:

Meeting was convened at 9am by Gareth Fitzsimons

Opening addresses were made by Gareth Fitzsimons (*on behalf of USGAA*), Jackie Trudell (*on behalf of Coastal Virginia GAA*) and Ambassador Dan Mulhall, who all welcomed the delegates and wished them a successful convention.

Standing Orders were adopted.

Minutes of 2016 NACB Convention (*Held in San Diego, California*) were adopted.

Bereaved:

A moments silence was held for those that passed during the year.

Presentation of Reports:

Games Development Report – presented by Rob Tierney.
Report was adopted as presented.

Hurling Development Report – presented by Colm Egan.
Report was adopted as presented.

Referee Development Report – presented by Hugh Duggan.
Report was adopted as presented.

Treasurers Report – presented by John Young.

Jen O'Brien enquired as to whether Divisional Officers were covered by the USGAA Liability Directors-and-Officers clause.

Gareth Fitzsimons committed to reviewing and providing a copy of the Policy to the Divisions.

Report was adopted as presented.

Secretary's Report – presented by Paul Keane

1. Paddy McDevitt outlined an Insurance issue encountered by a Sanction Player getting treatment under the Croke Park mandated Travel Insurance Policy.

Gareth Fitzsimons agreed to bring this issue to the attention of Croke Park.

2. Paddy McDevitt enquired as to the involvement of USGAA in the upcoming Fenway Park event being hosted by the GPA.

Paul Keane outlined the various attempts at engagement with the GPA on the matter.

After much discussion and contributions from John Farrell, Colm Egan, Gareth Fitzsimons, it was agreed to refer the matter to Central Council.

Report was adopted as presented.

Insurance Report – presented by Paul Keane

Report was adopted as presented.

At this point, it was agreed to address the Playoff Host Charter as the next order of business, and present the Development Awards after lunch.

Playoff Host Charter – proposed by USGAA

This was adopted as proposed.

Other Business:

1. Tracey Rivera enquired as to whether O’Neills and Masita could place Sponsorship Logo’s on Referee’s jersey’s.

Gareth Fitzsimons responded that this was in conflict of GAA’s Official Guide, and that he would look into whether it was allowed under LGFA and Camogie Association Rules.

2. John Farrell brought up the matter of Bernard Reidy’s request for payment for 1,000 NACB medals.

Gareth Fitzsimons and John Young outlined the situation, and commented that should USGAA receive written confirmation of an order for the medals in question, then USGAA would pay the requested amount.

Failing that, the best that can be offered is an amount equal to the scrap value of the medals.

Chairman’s Address:

Gareth Fitzsimons addressed Convention, with comments on USGAA affairs in 2017.

2017 Business was deemed concluded at 12:00pm

Break for Lunch at 12pm

Note: Draft pending adoption at USGAA Convention

Convention resumed at 1pm

Registration of Delegates:

After registration of delegates and Roll Call, it was deemed that 164 votes were counted as present and entitled to vote.

USGAA Development Awards:

Club Development Awards were presented to the following clubs:

Boston Shamrocks
Patriots, Chicago
John McBrides, Chicago
Milwaukee Hurling Club
Naomh Padraig, San Francisco

National Volunteer Achievement Awards were presented to:

Eoin O'Donovan, Padraig Pearses
Craig Wagner, Hurling Club of Madison
Anne Marie McCormack, Aisling Gaels Chicago

New Club of the Year awards were presented to the following clubs:

Notre Dame, Philadelphia
Winston Salem
Providence Hurling Club

Website and TV Spot Awards:

Culver City Cougars
Coastal Virginia

Video Promo Award:

Charlotte James Connolly's

Motions:

- 1: Proposal that all clubs must participate in a USGAA-approved Player Injury plan
Passed by Show of Hands
- 2: Proposal that all Divisions and Clubs must participate in a USGAA-approved Liability Insurance plan:
Passed by Show of Hands
- 3: Proposal that Registration be moved to a “per-member” system with a fee of \$10 for Social members and \$60 for Playing Members.
Tabled for further analysis.

Convention agreed in principle to move to a per-member registration, but suggested that USGAA review adopting a fee that included Division and Club Membership allocations.

- 4: Proposal that GAA players can register with USGAA if they have not been a registered member with a GAA club in the previous 24 months:
Passed by Show of Hands
- 5: Proposal that a “Late American Transfer” classification be created:
Failed by Show of Hands
- 6: Proposal that 2 American-Born players be on the field at all times in Junior Football for 2018-19, and all Men’s Teams from 2020 onwards:
Passed by Show of Hands
- 7: Proposal that 2 Homegrown Players be on the field at all times in all Football grades:
Withdrawn.

- 8: Proposal that any player who plays at Intermediate Camogie grade in USGAA finals not be allowed to play at Senior afterwards:
Withdrawn
- 9: Proposal to reduce the number of non-Resident Players in Men's Junior A Football:
Failed by Show of Hands
- 10: Proposal to reduce the number of non-Resident Players in all Ladies Football grades:
Passed by Show of Hands
- 11: Proposal to reduce the number of non-Resident Players in Junior B Ladies Football:
Withdrawn
- 12: Proposal to modify the number of players on the field at one time in Ladies Football:
Withdrawn
- 13: Proposal to create a Junior Hurling D Championship:
Tabled for further review by the Hurling Development Committee
- 14: Proposal to allow failing motions to only be submitted in the following year if they have approval of USGAA Management Committee
Failed by show of hands
- 15: Proposal to allow successful motions to only be repealed in the following year if approved by USGAA Management Committee.
Withdrawn

Election of Convention Chair and Secretary:

Hugh Duggan was proposed and elected as Convention Chair;
Ian Murphy was proposed and elected as Convention Secretary.

Count of Delegates deemed that there were 164 votes present and entitled to vote.

Election of Officers for 2018:

Chairperson: Gareth Fitzsimons, Bernie Connaughton and Eamonn Tohill were nominated. Eamonn Tohill and Bernie Connaughton declined the nomination.

Gareth Fitzsimons was duly elected as Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson: Bernie Connaughton, Niall Dempsey, Ger Doherty and Liam Hegarty were nominated. Liam Hegarty, Ger Doherty and Niall Dempsey declined the nomination.

Bernie Connaughton was duly elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Secretary: Paul Keane, Niall Dempsey and Lizzie O'Connor were nominated. Niall Dempsey declined the nomination; Paul Keane and Lizzie O'Connor both accepted the nomination.

Paul Keane won the ballot and was duly elected as Secretary.

Treasurer: John Young was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Treasurer.

Registrar: Padraig Cremin, Tom Lagan and Eoin O'Keeffe were nominated. Eoin O'Keeffe and Padraig Cremin declined.

Tom Lagan accepted and was duly elected as Registrar.

PRO: Daithí Ó'Caomh, Paul Higgins and Rory O'Donnell were nominated. Paul Higgins and Daithí Ó'Caomh declined.

Rory O'Donnell accepted and was duly elected as PRO.

Youth Officer: Liam Hegarty and Paul Mulcaire were nominated. Paul Mulcaire declined;

Liam Hegarty accepted and was duly elected as Youth Officer.

Central Council: Sean Breen, Alan Coyle, Ger Dillon, Ryan Finn and Paddy McDevitt were nominated.

Ryan Finn and Sean Breen declined; Paddy McDevitt, Ger Dillon and Alan Coyle accepted the nomination.

After the first ballot, Alan Coyle was eliminated.

Paddy McDevitt defeated Ger Dillon on the second ballot and was duly elected as Central Council Delegate.

Honorary President: Tom Farrelly was the only nomination, and accepted the nomination.

He was duly selected as Honorary President.

New Business:

The 2018 Board Officers took their position and the following items were addressed:

1. Brian White made a request that the classification "American-born" be replaced with the classification "non-Irish born" in all USGAA matters.
2. Ger Dillon requested that USGAA review the possibility of creating an U-21 competition to fill the gap between Youth and Adult competitions.
3. Ger Dillon provided an overview of the 2018 USGAA Finals in Philadelphia.
4. Tracey Rivera thanked Referee Development for their assistance in the Southwest Division.
5. Tracey Rivera outlined that the West Coast 7's was scheduled for 2018 Memorial Weekend.
6. Jen O'Brien requested that USGAA Committees be reflective of the diverse membership of the organization.
7. Chicago was selected as location for the 2018 USGAA Convention.

Playoff Proposals:

1. After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that USGAA could limit all competitions at USGAA finals to 8 teams. Proposals were to be brought forward as to how this 8-team limit would be achieved.
2. Discussion on moving forward the USGAA Finals was deferred.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was accepted at 5:07pm.