

US Gaelic Athletic Association



Minutes of 2018 USGAA Annual Convention

November 9-11, 2018
Gaelic Park, Chicago.

www.usgaa.org

Note: Draft pending adoption at USGAA Convention

Friday November 9th, 8pm.

Youth Officers Report – presented by Liam Hegarty.

Report was adopted as presented.

Registrar's Report – presented by Tom Lagan.

Rob Tierney queried why there was a drop in Registered Clubs, and how many Dual Players were registered.

Tom Lagan addressed both questions.

Report was adopted as presented.

PRO Report – presented by Rory O'Donnell.

Report was adopted as presented.

Hurling Development Report – presented by Colm Egan.

Jon Ebers enquired as to the overall number of Hurling games during 2018.

Colm Egan estimated there were between 700-1,000 games, including informal intra-club leagues.

Report was adopted as presented.

At 9:35pm the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, November 11th.

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Saturday, November 11th, 9am:

Meeting was convened at 9am by Gareth Fitzsimons.

Opening addresses were made by John Bridges (*on behalf of Chicago GAA*), Gareth Fitzsimons (*on behalf of USGAA*) and Jerry O'Sullivan (*Munster GAA*), who all welcomed the delegates and wished them a successful convention.

Standing Orders were adopted, with the noting of one correction due to a change in the Official Guide.

Minutes of 2017 USGAA Convention (*Held in Virginia Beach, Virginia*) 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.

Vince Beach enquired as to the source of Global Games Development Funding, and the process of Allocation Decisions.

Rob Tierney addressed both questions.

Report was adopted as presented.

Referee Development Report – presented by Hugh Duggan.

Report was adopted as presented.

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Central Council Delegates Report – presented by Paddy McDevitt.

Colm Egan brought up the issue of Irish-based units fund-raising in USGAA's jurisdiction.

Paul Keane outlined steps being taken to address this matter.

Report was adopted as presented.

Treasurers Report – presented by John Young.

1. Sean Gehrold enquired as to whether USGAA circulated a Budget Proposal.

John Young replied that there was no formal budget as such, and that, notwithstanding unforeseen events, costs were usually expected to be in-line with those of the previous years.

2. Vince Beach enquired as to the 2019 Insurance Costs

John Young addressed this by noting a 2019 Policy had not yet been sourced.

3. Tracey Rivera complimented USGAA on the approach to providing referees for the USGAA Finals.

4. Liam Moloney asked when the 2015 Insurance Overage would be distributed.

John Young responded that it was in process, and cheques would be issued in the near future.

5. Tom Regan enquired as to why the New York Feile Grant was listed in USGAA Reports.

John Young stated that this was due to a Croke Park process, but that it had been a straightforward pass-through with no impact on USGAA funds.

Report was adopted as presented.

Secretary's Report – presented by Paul Keane

1. Steve Shannon, Paul McGarry, Liam Moloney, John Bridges and Maurice Condon spoke on the need for civility and respect to be shown at all times, noting that this was clearly not the case in 2018.

Paul Keane thanked them for showing leadership on the matter.

2. Vince Beach brought up the matter of 2 Junior C Men's Football competitions at USGAA Finals.

Paul Keane noted that 13 entries had been received for the Junior C Men's Football grade, and that as 2017 Convention delegates had mandated no more than 8 teams-per-competition, USGAA's options were limited.

3. Susan Pierce complimented USGAA on the Website overhaul.
4. Skip Hunter acknowledged composing one of the emails referenced and apologized for doing so.

Paul Keane thanked Skip for his apology.

5. Mary Beth Glaccum, Kevin Pearson and Anthony Picozzi suggested that the abusive nature of discourse in 2018 may have been a result of the attitude of USGAA Officers.

Paul Keane thanked all 3 for their contribution and addressed each claim individually.

6. John Farrell brought up the matter of the GPA not being inclusive.

Paul Keane addressed the issue, and outlined steps being taken to ensure GPA are aware of their responsibilities to GAA development.

7. Tracey Rivera thanked USGAA for the work that went into Player Welfare by ensuring all players are insured.

Report was adopted as presented.

Address by World GAA Chairperson:

Niall Erskine (*Chair World GAA Committee*) addressed Convention and covered a number of topics in his comments.

2018 USGAA Club of the Year:

Charlotte James Connollys were announced as the Club of the Year.

Phelim Smith (*Masita*) presented Sean Murphy (*Charlotte James Connollys*) with a commemorative jersey in honor of the occasion.

Break for Lunch at 12:20pm.

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Convention resumed at 1:45pm

Chairman's Address:

Gareth Fitzsimons addressed Convention, with comments on USGAA affairs in 2018.

Other Business:

1. Gareth Fitzsimons presented outgoing Munster Council Chair, Jerry O'Sullivan, with a token of gratitude in recognition of the work and support he has provided USGAA during his Term of Office.
2. Annie Redmond (*Guinness*) presented an overview of co-Marketing opportunities for USGAA and Guinness.

No other business was presented for discussion.

2018 Business was deemed concluded at 2:10pm.

Registration of Delegates:

After registration of delegates and Roll Call, it was deemed that 222 votes were counted as present and entitled to vote:

Chicago:	27 Votes
Heartland:	33 Votes
Mid-Atlantic:	19 Votes
Midwest:	20 Votes
Northeast:	46 Votes
Northwest:	10 Votes
Philadelphia:	15 Votes
Southeast:	20 Votes
Southwest:	10 Votes
Western:	14 Votes
USGAA Officers:	8 Votes

Motions:

- 1: Proposal that Registration move to a "per-Member" system.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 2: Proposal to allow Registration of Non-Irish players after current deadlines, for the purposes of participating in sanctioned tournaments.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 3: Proposal to allow Developmental Clubs register less than 13-players, but no less than 9, in the first 3 years of existence.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 4: Proposal to add definitions for "Homegrown", "Resident" and "Non-Resident".
Passed by Show of Hands
- 5: Proposal to remove requirement that First-time players present to Divisional Committee at least 72 hours in advance of participation.
Withdrawn
- 6: Proposal to remove all references to paper-based registration.
Passed by Show of Hands

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- 7: Proposal to remove Regulation mandating Insurance.
Deemed out-of-order due to Motion 1 passing.
- 8: Proposal that a player can remain registered with current club, even if relocating outside the division.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 9: Proposal to modify Sanction Quota's in Official Guide.
Failed by Show of Hands
- 10: Proposal to restrict registration of Sanction Players as Resident Players.
Failed by 112 votes to 76 votes
- 11: Proposal to reduce the number of non-Resident Players in Senior Men's Football.
Failed by Show of Hands
- 12: Proposal to increase the number of non-Resident Players in Senior Men's Football.
Withdrawn
- 13: Proposal to reduce the number of non-Resident Players in Intermediate Men's Football.
Failed by 102 votes to 99 votes
- 14: Proposal to reduce the number of non-Resident Players in Junior A Men's Football.
Passed by 109 votes to 104 votes
- 15: Proposal to allow Junior C Football American-born players participate with a different club in Junior A or Junior B competitions.
Failed by Show of Hands
- 16: Proposal to modify the number of on-field Sanction and Irish-born players in Men's Junior C Football.
Failed by Show of Hands

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- 17: Proposal to modify the number of on-field Sanction and Irish-born players in Men's Junior D Football.
Withdrawn
- 18: Proposal to modify Regulation 5 by restricting it to Men's Football only and outlining how dismissals from field should be addressed.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 19: Proposal to mandate 2 American\Non-Irish on the field in all Men's Football grades.
Failed by Show of Hands
- 20: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in multiple Hurling grades.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 21: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in Intermediate Hurling grade.
Withdrawn
- 22: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in Junior A Hurling grade.
Withdrawn
- 23: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in Junior B Hurling grade.
Withdrawn
- 24: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in Junior B Hurling grade.
Withdrawn
- 25: Proposal to allow Junior C Hurling American-born players participate with a different club in Junior A or Junior B competitions.
Withdrawn

- 26: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in multiple Hurling grades.
Withdrawn
- 27: Proposal to create a Junior Hurling D Grade.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 28: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in multiple Hurling grades.
Withdrawn
- 29: Proposal to mandate 2 American\Non-Irish on the field in all Men's Hurling grades.
Withdrawn
- 30: Proposal to modify numbers of Non-resident\Sanction players in Ladies Senior Football.
Failed by Show of Hands
- 31: Proposal to create a Junior C Ladies Football grade.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 32: Proposal to address Referee Requirements for CYC.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 33: Proposal to allow failing motions only be submitted in the following year if they have approval of USGAA Management Committee.
Failed by show of hands
- 34: Proposal to allow successful motions only be repealed in the following year if approved by USGAA Management Committee.
Withdrawn
- 35: Proposal that USGAA Regulations and Byelaws be circulated with markups.
Withdrawn

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Election of Convention Chair and Secretary:

Liam Moloney was proposed and elected as Convention Chair;
Lizzie Reynolds was proposed and elected as Convention Secretary.

Count of Delegates deemed that there were 222 votes present and entitled to vote.

Election of Officers for 2019:

Chairperson: Bernie Connaughton and Sean Murphy were nominated.
Sean Murphy declined the nomination.

Bernie Connaughton was duly elected as Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson: Liam Hegarty, Stephen Feeney, Ger Dillon, Andretta Erickson and Tracey Rivera were nominated.

Tracey Rivera, Ger Dillon and Stephen Feeney declined their nominations. Liam Hegarty and Andretta Erickson accepted their nominations.

Liam Hegarty won the ballot was duly elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Secretary: Paul Keane was the only nomination and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Secretary.

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

Registrar: Tom Lagan was the only nomination and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Registrar.

PRO: Rory O'Donnell and Lizzie Reynolds were both nominated.

Lizzie Reynolds declined the nomination. Rory O'Donnell accepted the nomination and was duly elected as PRO.

Youth Officer: Paul Mulcaire was the only nomination and accepted the nomination. He was duly elected as Youth Officer.

Central Council: Paddy McDevitt and Ger Dillon were nominated.

Paddy McDevitt and Ger Dillon both accepted the nomination.

Paddy McDevitt won the ballot and was duly elected as Central Council Delegate.

Honorary President: Jim Carmody, Tommy Dolan and Joe Begley were nominated.

Tommy Dolan and Joe Begley both withdrew their names.

Jim Carmody was duly selected as Honorary President.

The 2019 Board Officers took their position and the following was addressed:

Address of Incoming Chairperson:

Bernie Connaughton addressed Convention and covered a number of topics in his comments.

A presentation was made to Outgoing Chairperson, Gareth Fitzsimons, in recognition of the work and dedication he had shown to USGAA during his Term of Office.

New Business:

1. Brittney Walsh asked that USGAA Committees be reflective of the diverse membership of the organization.
2. Tracey Rivera announced that the West Coast 7's was scheduled for 2019 Memorial Weekend.
3. Tracey Rivera noted that State Farm had sponsored 2018 USGAA events.
4. On behalf of the Midatlantic Division, Brittney Walsh provided an update on the 2019 USGAA Finals.
5. On a proposal from Brittney Walsh, Convention directed that USGAA approach the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association regarding a true "one-club" Affiliation Model.
6. Vanessa Asari enquired about the 2109 World Games. Niall Erskine addressed the question with some details as to dates and locations.
7. San Diego was selected as location for the 2019 USGAA Convention.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was accepted at 6:17pm.

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