

US Gaelic Athletic Association



Minutes of 2019 USGAA Annual Convention

November 8-10, 2019
San Diego, Ca.

www.usgaa.org

Note: Draft pending adoption at USGAA Convention

Friday November 8th, 8pm.

Youth Officers Report – presented by Paul Mulcaire.

- Vince Beach (*Cleveland*) asked where 2020 Feile would be held.
Paul Mulcaire replied that it would be based in Donegal and Tyrone.
- In relation to the “Young Whistlers” Program, Caoimhe Butler (*Na Toraidhe*) outlined that Refereeing hours is a condition of applying for the Liam Hegarty scholarship.
- Bernie Connaughton addressed a number of items, including:
 - Congratulating Paul Mulcaire on his appointment as CYC Chair;
 - The funds available in Youth Escrow for a number of Divisions;
 - The success of Youth Clubs forming adult clubs to retain their youth players.

Report was adopted as presented.

2019 Registration Review – presented by Tom Lagan.

- Vince Beach (*Cleveland*) asked whether the Youth Board were considering adopting the Adult Registration system and methods.

Paul Mulcaire and Tom Lagan addressed the question, stating that both Registrars would coordinate a review of their systems for synergies.

- Barry McGrath (*Sons of Boru\Celts*) enquired about the Grade Status assigned to each club in the report.

Tom Lagan replied that this was a hangover from a previous system and was now largely irrelevant. Additionally, he felt that the overall grading system should be reviewed by Committee in 2020.

Report was adopted as presented.

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PRO Report – presented by Rory O’Donnell.

- Vince Beach (*Cleveland*) asked as to the deadline for submission of content for the Newsletter.

Rory O’Donnell stated that the goal was for a Newsletter in the first part of each month, and that getting content submitted 1 week in advance would facilitate that.

- Barry McGrath (*Sons of Boru\Celts*) queried how content from clubs was sourced.

Rory O’Donnell replied that the normal route was through Divisional PRO’s.

- In relation to the GAAGO Sponsorship, Paul Keane stated that the Discount Codes were issued through the email address listed for members in the Stack Sport Registration system.

As a number of clubs had used the same email address for all their members, this meant there were 1,092 duplicate email addresses in the system, and therefore those people did not receive their Discount Code.

- Paul Keane thanked all those that had contributed to the history of NACB\USGAA dating back to 1959 and beyond – ultimately, they had provided the material for the History Section of the website.
- Bernie Connaughton spoke on the need for the Divisional PRO’s to work closer with the USGAA PRO.

Report was adopted as presented.

At 9:31pm the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, November 9th.

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Saturday, November 11th, 9:30am:

Meeting was convened at 9:30am by Bernie Connaughton.

Opening addresses were made by Tracey Rivera (*on behalf of San Diego GAA*), Bernie Connaughton (*on behalf of USGAA*) and Liam Lenihan (*Munster GAA*), who all welcomed the delegates and wished them a successful convention.

Standing Orders were adopted – proposed by Tracey Rivera, and seconded by Katrina Terry.

Minutes of 2018 USGAA Convention (*Held in Gaelic Park, Chicago*) were adopted – proposed by Rob Tierney, and seconded by Michael Schaefer.

Presentation of Reports:

Games Development Report – presented by Rob Tierney.

Bernie Connaughton spoke on a number of items, including:

- The valuable work being carried out by Games Development, and the opportunities that Divisions and Clubs can draw from it.
- Acknowledged Colm Egan's work as Hurling Development Chair for the previous 10 years, and thanked him for the efforts that led to the growth of hurling during that time-frame.
- The continued expansion of USGAA with the affiliation of 6 new clubs, including LA Mulhollands who were attending their first USGAA Convention.

Report was adopted as presented.

Referee Development Report – presented by Hugh Duggan.

Bernie Connaughton and Paul Keane both spoke on the importance of Referee Development, and that Divisions and Clubs need to be more cognizant of the critical role played by Referee's.

Report was adopted as presented.

Central Council Delegates Report – presented by Paddy McDevitt.

Report was adopted as presented.

Registration Report – presented by Tom Lagan.

- Cory Johnson (*Milwaukee Camogie*) asked whether Referee's are considered Social Members.

Tom Lagan outlined the consideration being given to Complimentary Social Membership, which could include Referee's.

However, if participating as players, then Referee's would need to register as Playing Members.

- Gareth Fitzsimons (*Parnells*) enquired as to whether Dual Players are covered.

Tom Lagan outlined that USGAA now has a per-player individual registration system, and therefore once an individual is registered with the USGAA they are insured for one and/or both codes.

- Bernie Connaughton outlined that USGAA have adopted a new Registration model, and that Divisions and Clubs need to engage with the concept.

Report was adopted as presented.

Treasurers Report – presented by John Young.

- John Bridges (*Padraig Pearses*) asked about the \$29k labeled as uncleared cheques.

John Young replied that \$25k of this was Operating Grants to Divisions that had been distributed at Convention, and the remaining \$4k were cheques that had recently been mailed but remained uncashed.

- Dave Olsen (*Madison*) enquired about the World Games Grant, and how it had been disbursed.

John Young stated that Croke Park had allocated a set amount (€4,000) per team, and that USGAA had passed that amount through to each team.

- Bernie Connaughton outlined the proposal to provide an Operating Grant to each Division in 2020, and that further details would be forthcoming.

Report was adopted as presented.

Secretary's Report – presented by Paul Keane

- John Farrell (*Offaly Hurling*) asked what was being done to address the various fundraising events being held in the USGAA jurisdiction without approval or involvement of USGAA.

Paul Keane outlined efforts made to address the matter, and the number of frustrating incidents during the previous 12 months.

Convention delegates mandated that USGAA bring this matter to GAA Management and strongly request resolution on the matter.

- Annie Redmond (*St. Mary's*) enquired as to whether Divisions were required to have Playoffs to decide representatives at USGAA Finals.

Paul Keane and Bernie Connaughton replied that while it might not be explicitly outlined in rule, Divisions should aim to have some type of competitive element during the season, in order to provide more meaningful games to their teams.

- Greg Lundy (*Galway Football*) asked why there were multiple different pricing options for Sanction Insurance.

Paul Keane replied that this was an error in the process, as there should have been only one policy (€233) accepted – all other pricings were for policies that did not include GAA coverage.

- Ger Dillon (*Allentown*) and Katrina Terry (*Na Toraidhe Camogie*) questioned the structure of USGAA Finals competitions with 3 teams, and whether there was a better way of structuring it.

Paul Keane stated that in previous years, allowing a defeated semi-finalist back into the competition had not been successful.

In the case of last-minute withdrawals, it was not possible to re-arrange the schedule to introduce a round-robin option.

- Dave Olsen (*Madison*) questioned the timing of the World Games.

Paul Keane replied that the facts clearly showed that the World Games impacted USGAA activities and does need to be addressed.

Bernie Connaughton suggested that hosting the event outside of Ireland may allow for flexibility in scheduling during the off-season.

Report was adopted as presented.

Chairperson's Address:

Bernie Connaughton addressed Convention, with comments on USGAA affairs in 2019, and plans for 2020.

Other Business:

- Peter Murray (*Northeast Chair*) thanked USGAA for the work done in 2019, and also the announcement of the Divisional Operating Grants which he felt was an important development.
- John Flood (*Donegal St. Patricks*) addressed Convention regarding correspondence received by the Donegal St. Patricks secretary during the year.

Paul Keane addressed the matter.

- John McDaid (*Notre Dame*) apologized for any issues experienced by USGAA Officers at the 2019 CYC.

No other business was presented for discussion.

2019 Business was deemed concluded.

Break for Lunch at 12:35pm.

Convention resumed at 1:45pm

Club of the Year:

Milwaukee Hurling Club were announced as Club of the Year, and Ed Kirby (*Masita*) presented the award.

Roll Call:

After registration of delegates and Roll Call, it was deemed that 200 votes were counted as present and entitled to vote:

Chicago:	18 Votes
Heartland:	10 Votes
Mid-Atlantic:	8 Votes
Midwest:	22 Votes
Northeast:	43 Votes
Northwest:	12 Votes
Philadelphia:	19 Votes
Southeast:	20 Votes
Southwest:	31 Votes
Western:	10 Votes
USGAA Officers:	7 Votes

Address by Joey Carton (*Munster Games Development*):

Joey Carton addressed convention, and outlined a number of initiatives underway between USGAA and Munster, which would provide valuable to Divisions and Clubs.

Presentation by Annie Redmond (*Guinness*):

Annie Redmond presented an overview of opportunities for clubs to engage with Guinness and leverage promotional campaigns.

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Address by Larry McCarthy (GAA Management):

Larry McCarthy addressed Convention, outlining the work GAA Management have undertaken for International units.

He also spoke on his nomination for GAA President.

Bereaved:

A moments silence was offered for those that passed during the year, including:

Larry Callan
Cathy Darcy
Mattie Duggan
George Dunn Jr.
Paddy Egan
Rocky Gallagher
Liam Hegarty
John Hunt

Donie Kenneally
Gary Leonna
Tony Lynch
Barney McEnroe
Pete Nash
Danny O'Donnell
Tim Peters
Frank Shriane

Motions:

- 1: Proposal to tidy up wording of Regulation 1, to align it with Registration System changes made in recent years.
Passed by Show of Hands

- 2: Proposal to modify the deadline for allowing Social Members convert to Playing Members.
Passed by Show of Hands

- 3: Proposal to modify process for Sanction Players resuming participation in the USGAA games after an approved trip to Ireland.
Passed by Show of Hands

- 4: Proposal to modify Byelaw 12(c) to allow dual players register with clubs in different Divisions.
Motion was tabled, and USGAA CCC were given authority to evaluate cases on an individual basis.

- 5: Proposal to allow NCGAA Teams register with USGAA at reduced cost.
Passed by Show of Hands

- 6: Proposal to modify requirements for Homegrown Players in Senior Football.
Passed by Show of Hands

- 7: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in all Junior Football grades.
Defeated by Show of Hands

- 8: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior C Football.
Passed by Show of Hands

- 9: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior D Football.
Defeated by Show of Hands
- 10: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior D Football.
Defeated by Show of Hands
- 11: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior D Football.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 12: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior D Football.
Withdrawn.
- 13: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior D Football.
Withdrawn.
- 14: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in all Junior Hurling grades.
Withdrawn.
- 15: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in all Junior Ladies Football grades.
Defeated by Show of Hands.
- 16: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior Camogie grade.
Withdrawn.
- 17: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior Camogie grade.
Passed by Show of Hands.

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- 18: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior Camogie grade.
Withdrawn.
- 19: Proposal to modify on-field Resident\Non-Resident\Homegrown quotas in Junior Camogie grade.
Withdrawn.
- 20: Proposal to restrict the resubmission of defeated motions at following years Convention.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 21: Proposal to restrict the removal of successful motions at following years Convention.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 22: Proposal to allow “coed” participation in games.
Passed by Show of Hands
- 23: Proposal to allow mixed gender participation in games.
Withdrawn

Election of Convention Chair and Secretary:

Liam Lenihan was proposed and elected as Convention Chair;
Joey Carton was proposed and elected as Convention Secretary.

Larry McCarthy and Mike O'Connor were selected as Tellers.

Count of Delegates deemed that there were 200 votes present and entitled to vote.

Election of Officers for 2020:

Chairperson: Bernie Connaughton was the only nomination and accepted the nomination.

He was duly elected as as Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson: Paul Keane, John Young and Andretta Erickson were nominated.

Andretta Erickson and Paul Keane declined their nominations. John Young accepted the nomination and was duly elected as Vice-chairperson.

Secretary: Paul Keane and Tim Flanagan were nominated.

Tim Flanagan declined his nomination. Paul Keane accepted the nomination and was duly elected as Secretary.

Treasurer: John Young, Tom Walsh and Caoimhe were nominated.

John Young and Caoimhe Butler declined their nominations. Tom Walsh accepted the nomination and was duly elected as Treasurer.

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

PRO: Caoimhe Butler was the only nomination and accepted the nomination.
She 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.

Ger Dillon declined the nomination. Paddy McDevitt accepted the
nomination and was duly elected as Central Council Delegate.

New Business:

The 2020 Board Officers took their position and the following was addressed:

- The USGAA Historical Committee nominated Mike O'Connor (*Galway Boston*) as Honorary President for 2020.

The Convention delegates ratified this nomination, and Mike
O'Connor was duly elected as Honorary President for 2020.

- Charlotte was selected as location for the 2020 USGAA Convention.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was accepted at 4:35pm.