



The GAA in Ulster

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Uladh



www.ulster.gaa.ie

GAA

The GAA is a community based volunteer organisation promoting Gaelic Games, culture and lifelong participation...



Réamhamharc ar CLG Uladh

An Introduction to Ulster GAA

A Chairde,

The GAA is Ireland's largest Sporting, Cultural and Community Organisation, with over one million members and over 2,750 Clubs throughout the world. Within Ulster we have some 580 Clubs and units, involving around 250,000 volunteers. As the governing body for the GAA in the Province the Ulster Council works in partnership with the nine GAA County Committees as well as the Ulster Councils for Ladies Gaelic Football, Camogie, Handball and Rounders. We do that to promote, enhance, develop and strengthen gaelic games and associated activities at grassroots level.

This document gives a brief overview of our work and outlines Ulster GAA's strategic priorities for the next three years. Our public policy priorities include:

- Lobbying central government in order to obtain capital and revenue support for the GAA Strategic Plan 2009-2015; for our own Ulster GAA strategy; and for our nine County GAA strategies.
- Lobbying and working with local government to provide facilities and coaching support for gaelic games and cultural activities.
- The development of effective cross-border working at all levels.
- Achieving full rate relief for GAA Clubs in the North by lobbying central and local government to introduce 100% relief to Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC). Also supporting GAA Clubs in the South achieving appropriate levels of Tax relief.
- Introduction of an Irish Language Act in the Northern jurisdiction and the provision of appropriate support for the language and its use across the Province.
- Tugann muid lán tacaíocht don ghaeilge agus do na h-eagraisí a chothaíonn na teanga. Tá coiste na gaeilge againn a stiúraíonn ár bpolasaithe i dtaobh na teangan. Bíonn ranganna gaeilge in ár gclubanna, naoinraí agus bunscoileanna lan ghaeilge in ár gclub thithe agus go ginearálta cuireann muid áiseanna ár gcumann ar fáil do fhorbairt na gaeilge is ár n-oidhreacht.
- Achievement of appropriate government support for the development of the GAA's strategic stadium requirements.

- Revision of the Compensation Order NI to include GAA facilities.
- The development and implementation of planning policies which reflect the needs of our communities, both urban and rural: in particular we seek the recasting of PPS 21.
- Ensuring that future programmes for government make provision for strong and meaningful links between Health and Well-being, Education and Sport.
- Ensuring the governing bodies of sport continue to hold the lead role in the promotion of sports development and participation.
- Securing appropriate Charitable status for GAA fund-raising bodies.

The GAA is committed to playing its part in the development of a shared and better future for everyone on the island of Ireland. The Association has a strong anti sectarian and anti racist policy and Ulster GAA will continue to promote diversity and inclusion at all levels of the Association.

Our GAA Clubs provide a key community anchor and remain the Province's leading providers – at minimal cost to the public purse – of sporting, cultural and community development activities. At all levels the GAA here is a leading builder of social capital.

We hope this document educates you as to the work of Ulster GAA and highlights its hugely significant contribution to society. We equally hope we can work in partnership with you to our mutual benefit.

Tá súil againn go dtaitneoidh an bróisér seo libh agus go gcuideoidh sé leat tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar obair Chumann Lúthchleas Gael i gcúige Uladh. Tá muid ag súil go mór le comh-oibriú libh ar son leasa na daoine uilig sa chúige.

Aogán Ó Fearghail

Aogán Ó Fearghail
Uachtarán Chomhairle Uladh
(President- Ulster GAA)

D. O'Murchú

Danny Murphy
Stiúrthóir Comhairle Uladh
(Director- Ulster GAA)

Mion-eolas Fúinn-ne

All about the GAA

The GAA Mission

“The GAA is a community based volunteer organisation promoting Gaelic Games, culture and lifelong participation.”

Vision

The vision of Ulster GAA is “To foster and grow the GAA across Ulster, strengthening its position as the Province’s leading amateur sporting, cultural; community; and volunteer-driven movement.”

As part of the GAA, Comhairle Uladh is unequivocally value-driven. The values which guide its plans and its day-to-day work are:

- Community
- Volunteerism
- Identity
- Inclusion
- Excellence

A Brief History

The Gaelic Athletic Association (Cumann Lúthchleas Gael) was founded on November 1st 1884.

The Association was established to revive and nurture traditional and indigenous pastimes.

Within six months of that famous first meeting, clubs began to spring up all over Ireland and people began to play the games of Hurling and Gaelic Football and take part in Athletic events with pride. From 1925 the GAA handed over the organisation of Athletics to a separate organisation.

The Irish who emigrated brought their national games with them and both regional and club units are now well established in America, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Canada, Europe and in many other parts of the world where the large Irish diaspora are located.

The GAA in Ulster

Ulster GAA is the governing body for Gaelic Games in Ulster, under which there are nine county boards (Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Monaghan, and Tyrone) and 580 GAA clubs. There are over 250,000 volunteers involved in GAA across Ulster.

Gaelic Games

Gaelic games comprises of 5 codes including football; hurling; camogie; handball; and rounders, for men and women, boys and girls. All Gaelic Games up to the age of 12 are organised on a non competitive fun basis, from the age of 14 onward the GAA has a competitive games structure and in recent years Ulster GAA has introduced Social and Recreational teams for players to enjoy without the competitive edge.

Gaelic Football (Ladies and Men’s)

Gaelic Football is a field game which has developed as a distinct game. To score, the player must put the ball over the bar for a point or into the nets for a goal, which equates to 3 points. Each team consists of 15 players.

Hurling and Camogie

Hurling, also known as **Camogie** for girls, is believed to be the world’s oldest field game. When the Celts came to Ireland as the last ice age was receding, they brought with them a unique culture and pastimes. One of these pastimes was the game now called hurling.



Mion-eolas Fúinn-ne

All about the GAA

Handball

Handball involves two or four players (singles or doubles), a ball, durable hands and a few walls. The basic object of the game is to defeat your opponent in a contest requiring speed, agility, guile and skill. Find out more about handball at: www.gaahandball.ie

Rounders

Rounders: is a game played between two teams, each alternating between batting and fielding. Rounders was formalised as a GAA code in 1884.

For further information on Rounders log onto: www.gaarounders.ie

Aontacht Uladh

Up until 2009, the five GAA codes operated under their own separate entities and separate councils. However Aontacht Uladh, which is the Confederation of GAA Councils in Ulster, pulls together the resources and talent of the five organisations and assists all codes in developing their games which will increase grassroots participation.

GAA Heritage & Culture

In addition to our games the GAA focuses on Irish cultural activities, supporting the language as well as Irish song; music; art; drama and dance.

Scór

Scór is a very proud GAA tradition which showcases the very best in Irish song, dance, storytelling, music, and history. In 2009, Scór celebrated its 40th year. There are two separate competitions - for the younger generation Scór na nÓg and for over 18s Scór Sinsear.

In the Past 125 Years-2009

2009 was the GAA's 125th anniversary of its foundation in 1884. The year-long celebration included the GAA 125 Schools Day on Friday 24th April 2009, which focused on our primary and second level schools right across Ireland. On Sunday 10th May 2009 over 140,000 GAA members celebrated Lá na gClub (Day of the Club) in Ulster. While on the 13-14th March 2009 the GAA 125 History Conference was organised in Partnership with the O'Fiach Library in Armagh.

The Irish Language

Ulster GAA is committed to the promotion of the Irish Language and uses Irish words and phrases

throughout all its meetings and publications. Since 1960, Ulster GAA has run an annual Irish Language Course in Ros Goill in Donegal. The Seamus de Faoite Irish Language Course has grown into one of Ulster's premier cultural events. An Coiste Gaeilge Agus Oidherachta (Irish and Heritage Committee) has responsibility for promoting the Irish Language across the Province in conjunction with the nine County Culture and Language Officers.

The GAA Club

Virtually every town and village on the island has a GAA Club, there are 2500 GAA Clubs throughout the world. In Ulster there are 580 Club affiliated to 9 County Committees. GAA Clubs are strong community anchor, providing social capital, cohesion and identity in their locality. In most cases GAA Club facilities have been built and paid for by the local Community. GAA Clubs have a strong Family focus providing games for everyone regardless of gender or age.

Child Protection

The Gaelic Athletic Association is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all young people who wish to participate in our Gaelic Games and activities. We take all practicable steps to protect them from discernable forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings. We do this by recognising that all children have the right to be protected from harm and ensuring that all of our coaches and volunteers are carefully recruited and selected and that they accept responsibility for ensuring the well-being of children in their care. The GAA currently has Children's Officers and designated persons at Club, County and Provincial level who liaise with the statutory authorities as appropriate. The Central level of the GAA has a full time Children's Officer with a remit to oversee the implementation of good child protection welfare practices in the Association.



Obair CLG Uladh

The Work of Ulster GAA

Comhairle Uladh/Ulster GAA is the governing body for Gaelic Games in the province of Ulster. The Ulster Council comprises of delegates elected from and by the Province's nine Counties and works across two political jurisdictions and 29 local authorities.

All members of the Ulster Council are volunteers. They drive change, they lead in decision making and they are responsible for planning for the future. The decisions and plans initiated by the Ulster Council members are implemented by Ulster GAA staff.

The Ulster Council:

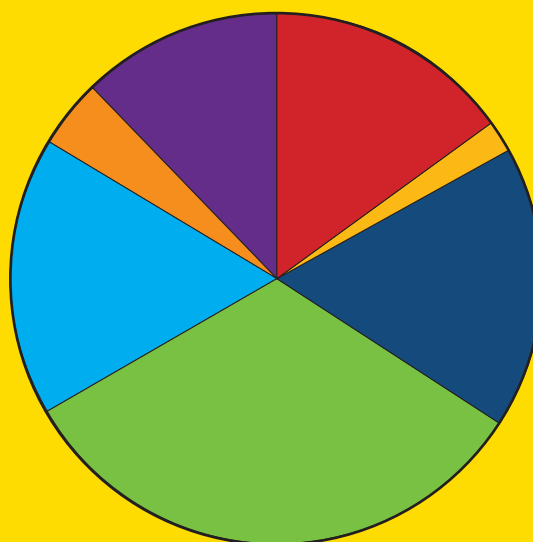
- Oversees the development and delivery of Gaelic games and associated activities across 580 GAA Clubs and some 250,000 active members.
- Directly oversees year-on-year some 12 major inter-County GAA competitions.
 - Manages GAA events which attract annual live attendances of 250,000.
 - Facilitates the development of the GAA by the direct delivery of coaching and development programmes; by improving Club capacity; by providing grant aid; and by helping deliver government strategies and programmes.
 - Supervises the core activities of its nine County Committees in the areas of games; fixtures; finance; marketing; public relations; and physical facilities.
 - Deals directly with government on relevant issues.
- Is energised by a huge and ongoing volunteer input at all levels and in all settings.
- Reports annually to Ulster Convention and to National Congress on its affairs.

Reinvesting in Communities and Grassroots GAA Development

Ulster GAA are committed to supporting the development of Clubs, Games and Cultural activities at grassroots level that is why we invest 85% of our income back to Clubs, Counties and Communities.

Every-time you attend a GAA match the vast majority of the money you pay as a spectator goes back to the development of the GAA at grassroots level, in terms of sport this makes the GAA unique and something all of us can be proud of.

2009 Expenditure



Club & County Coaching & Games Programmes	32%
Games Development Programmes	17%
Club & County Infrastructure	18%
Operational Costs	15%
Championship & Team Expenses	12%
Grants to Special Projects	4%
Insurance	2%



Obair CLG Uladh

The Work of Ulster GAA

Amateur Ethos

Gaelic players and members do not receive any payment for their involvement in the activities of the Association at any level of the organisation. The income of Ulster GAA is reinvested in the Association and its activities. No member of the Council receives any remuneration apart from necessary expenses incurred from time to time. The amateur status and ethos is possibly the most important aspect of the organisation.

Coaching and Games Development

The Games have always been the core business of Ulster GAA. Ulster GAA's role is to increase participation levels; improve the quality and the frequency of the games; provide a focus for the development of all players; and deliver competitions which are attractive and meaningful to everyone of all ages, both sexes and all backgrounds.

In this respect Ulster GAA has taken forward a number of initiatives,

- Practical and Theoretical Coach Education Workshops to help share best practice.
- Integration of Physical Literacy programmes into Foundation and Key Stage 1 in schools.
- Development of Sports Specific skills at Key Stage 2 and 3 in schools and in clubs
- Implementation of the Lifelong Participation in Sport and Physical Activity Model, recognising the needs and abilities of people at different age groups.
- Utilisation of the GAA sports codes to help build community cohesion and mutual respect.
- Creation of elite squads to nurture talent and develop future champions in all codes.
- Implementation of Respect Campaigns to ensure all playing and non playing members adhere to a code of best practice.

Community Development & Inclusion

The GAA is concerned about more than sport. During this decade Ulster GAA has taken forward pioneering work in supporting the GAA's role and place as a forceful community anchor and creator of social capital.

In its community development work Ulster GAA has already helped take forward a number of important initiatives, including:

- First ever cross community schools hurling tournament 'The Cúchulainn Cup'

- The creation of cross community and inclusion projects
- Generating discussion with leaders from non-GAA backgrounds
- Working with cross-community youth organisations to create an understanding and awareness of the GAA for those from non-GAA backgrounds
- Encouraging GAA clubs to recruit people from non-GAA backgrounds regardless of political view, religion, race, age, background etc.

Infrastructure

Ulster GAA continues to focus on providing and maintaining:

- Places to play Gaelic games and participate in GAA activities
- Places to watch and enjoy the games and activities
- Places to prepare for and manage Gaelic games and associated activities

The Ulster Council is responsible for overseeing infrastructure programmes, project management of Ulster Council capital projects, health, safety and compliance issues, as well as dealing with associated activities such as commercial activities and business planning.

Enhancing Community Identity

In all of its work Ulster GAA will hold true to the traditional purpose and values of the GAA in that it:

- Is community-based and volunteer-driven
- Provides real community leadership
- Works in the areas and communities of greatest need
- Is open and welcoming to all and free at the point of delivery
- Re-invests all its income in its own facilities and in the development of its games
- Promotes a community-based, ground-up rather than a corporate, top-down culture



Cé Muid-ne

Who we are



The Volunteer Officer board are responsible for the overall Management and Governance of the GAA in Ulster. Each of the Ulster nine counties have two delegates who sit as members of the Ulster Council, the educational units such as Cumann na nBunscol (GAA Primary Schools) Colleges, Second level and CAU (GAA Third level) also have a representative on the Council. The President of the Ulster Council represents the Province as a member of the National GAA Management Committee and is a Vice-President of the GAA. The Secretary of the Council is also the Provincial Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ulster GAA and is a member of the National GAA Executive (Senior Management Team). The Director is responsible to the Officers of the Council and oversees the day to day operational work of the Council supported by the Ulster GAA Senior Staff Team.

Ulster Council Officers

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Past President Iar-Uachtarán

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Baill Chomhairle Uladh

Ulster Council Members

Ulster Council Members & County Colours

Antrim Saffron & White

Jim Murray
Frank Smyth



Donegal Green & Gold

Edward Molloy
Mick McGrath



Armagh Orange & White

Joe Jordan
Eddie Hughes



Down Red & Black

John Devaney
Diarmuid Cahill



Cavan Blue & White

Gerry Soden
Paddy Sheanon



Fermanagh Green & White

Tiernach Mahon
Vincent Martin



Derry Red & White

Chris Brown
Harry Gribbin



Monaghan White & Blue

John Connolly
JP Graham



Tyrone White & Red

Gerard Bradley
Pat Darcy



Other Delegates

Handball: Dr. Robert Maguire

(CAU) Third Level: John Farrell

(Cumann na nBunscol) Primary Schools: Pat McGivern www.scoilspport.org

Ulster Colleges Chairman: Seamus Meehan www.ulstercollegesgaa.org

Second Level Schools: Paul Maxwell

Ladies Gaelic Chairperson: Hugh Deveney

Camogie Chairperson: Catherine O'Hara

Rounders Chairperson: Peadar O Tuatain



Cúraim Phobail

Community Development

Ulster GAA is committed to promoting inclusion and diversity through its programmes and projects, some of the projects that the Ulster Council have developed in this area are:

NFL – No Foul Language

The NFL campaign aims to encourage our players, supporters, parents, teachers and coaches to lead the way for our children in terms of thinking before we speak; this programme focuses on promoting good behaviour and setting an example to all young people who are involved in the GAA.

Disability Games

The aim of the Disability Games programme is to work in partnership with other agencies and organisations to enhance the physical health and social wellbeing of people with a disability, whilst simultaneously promoting social inclusion through participation. GAA Clubs are at the heart of every community and therefore provide an excellent opportunity and vehicle with which to include and involve all those who have an interest in the sport regardless of ability.

Health, Wellness and Lifestyle Programmes

Ulster GAA supports its members in achieving a healthy lifestyle through its programmes. The Association provides information on areas such as Nutrition, Exercise, Smoking and Alcohol use all of which if managed correctly can have a positive effect in avoiding diseases such as obesity, heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. The GAA Alcohol and Substance Abuse programme (ASAP) is there to reduce the harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol in society, the programme aims to

promote a strong and responsible message with regards to Alcohol and a zero tolerance policy on drug use by Association members. The Live to Play programme aims to promote road safety by offering education opportunities to members and increasing awareness on this issue by the use of high profile GAA personalities to promote the important message of Live to Play.

Welcoming New Citizens

It's estimated that by the year 2020, one-person-in-five in Ireland will have migrated here from somewhere else or have been born to migrant parents. As Irish people, we have the clearest understanding of what it's like to have to go abroad to seek a better life. Even the smallest word or gesture of welcome is important to new members of our community. The GAA is open and welcoming to everyone. If you're living here, no matter what your background, we're interested in getting you involved in our Association.

If you are interested in more information about Ulster GAA and its work then follow us on:



Facebook: www.facebook.com/ulster.gaa

YouTube: www.youtube.com/ulstergaa

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ulstergaa

Or subscribe to our monthly on-line newsletter by registering your e-mail address on the Ulster Council GAA web-site www.ulster.gaa.ie



Foireann Chomhairle Uladh

Ulster Staff

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GAA Rounders Ulster Council

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Ulster Council GAA Integration Partners

Ulster Ladies Gaelic www.ulsterladiesgaelic.com

Ulster Camogie www.ulstercamogie.ie

Ulster GAA Handball www.gaahandball.ie

Ulster GAA Rounders www.gaarounders.ie

