

8 Inclusion and Integration Strategy



The playing of Gaelic Games is a unique and integral part of Irish culture and tradition. The Gaelic Athletic Association was founded in 1884 to promote Irish pastimes and culture, including the playing of Gaelic Football and Hurling. These games have been played throughout Ireland for many centuries and the founding of the Association put in place a structure that resulted in clubs developing in every town and village in Ireland. Our games have grown to be the country's most popular sports and over 2,000 clubs exist in Ireland catering for Hurling, Football, Handball and Rounders.

The popularity of our games abroad, particularly amongst the Irish Diaspora, is also on the increase and there are now over 400 clubs playing Gaelic games around the world in Australasia, Europe, North America, and Asia. Ireland has seen enormous demographic changes in recent years and people of many nationalities and ethnicities have been welcomed to our shores and to the playing of our Gaelic Games.

Following consultations with members and non members the GAA, and in collaboration with Ladies Football, Camogie, Handball and Rounders a series of

recommendations and proposals to promote greater Inclusion and Integration in our Games have now been adopted as policy.

Specific proposals and recommendations were made to the GAA's National Strategic Planning Group resulting in a dedicated section on Inclusion and Integration being included as one of the eleven key themes in the Association's Strategic Vision and Action Plan 2009-2015.

Mission, Vision, Values of the GAA

The GAA's values are the heart and soul of our Association. In every club around the world they are what binds us, what makes us unique and what attracts more and more players, members, volunteers and supporters.

For additional information on the GAA Inclusion and Integration Strategy please contact inclusion@gaa.ie

Mission, Vision, Values of the GAA

GAA Inclusion and Integration Strategy

Mission

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

The GAA is a volunteer organisation. We develop and promote Gaelic games at the core of Irish identity and culture.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our family of games, and the values we live, enrich the lives of our members, families and the communities we serve.

We are committed to active lifelong participation for all and to providing the best facilities.

We reach out to and include all members of our society. We promote individual development and well-being and strive to enable all our members achieve their full potential in their chosen roles.



Vision

Our vision is that everybody has the opportunity to be welcomed to take part in our games and culture, to participate fully, to grow and develop and to be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Association.

Values

VALUE	What this means
Community Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community is at the heart of our Association. Everything we do helps to enrich the communities we serve We foster a clear sense of identity and place
Amateur Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are a volunteer led organisation All our members play and engage in our games as amateurs We provide a games programme at all levels to meet the needs of all our players
Inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We welcome everybody to be part of our Association We are anti sectarian We are anti racist
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We respect each other on and off the playing fields We operate with integrity at all levels We listen and respect the views of all
Player Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We provide the best playing experience for all our players. We structure our games to allow players of all abilities reach their potential
Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective teamwork on and off the field is the cornerstone of our Association Ní neart go cur le chéile (There is no strength without working together)