



**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógaíochta

An Chomhdháil Bhliantiúil 2016, 1 & 2 Aibreán

Draft Minutes

Annual Congress 2016 took place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick on April 1st & 2nd 2016.

Friday 1st April

1) Opening Congress

The Ard Stiúrthóir welcomed all in attendance and asked Limerick Chairperson Seán Condon to open Congress.

Seán Condon welcomed all delegates and said on behalf of Limerick Camogie Board that he would like to welcome everyone to Limerick. He thanked the Uachtarán, the Ard Stiúrthóir, the local organising committee; James Moynihan, Joe O'Donnell, Bríd Kennedy and Bridget Stanley as well as Munster GAA for all of their help in organising Congress. He also noted that he would like to congratulate Na Piarasigh for winning the All-Ireland Hurling Club Final on St Patrick's Day.

The Uachtarán thanked Limerick Camogie Board, Munster Council and the Camogie Association Staff for the organisation of Congress.

2) Adoption of Standing Orders

The Standing Orders, as listed in the Congress documentation, were adopted on the proposal of Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle).

3) Adoption of 2015 Congress Minutes

The minutes of the 2015 Congress, were previously circulated and taken as read. These minutes were adopted on the proposal of Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle) by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle).

4) Provincial Council Reports

Connacht Council

Fiona Hamilton (Connacht Chairperson) thanked Ard Chomhairle and stated that she was looking forward to the new year.

Munster Council

James Moynihan (Munster Chairperson) thanked all officers and made a special mention to Marion Graham and Marie Kearney of Munster Council who are stepping down from Ard Chomhairle. He thanked them for all of their work over the last number of years.

The Uachtarán commended Munster Council for their work with Irish TV and sympathised with the passing of Peter Downey last year.

Leinster Council

Rachel Hogan, (Leinster Chairperson) thanked Sarah Conroy, Leinster Secretary for her comprehensive report and wished Pat Martin, incoming Leinster Chairperson the best of luck in his new role. She also thanked Mary Connor, outgoing Leinster Delegate who is stepping down after many years' service on Leinster Council and Ard Chomhairle

Ulster Council

Kathleen Woods (Ulster Chairperson) thanked her officers and made a special mention to Collette Lambe who has stepped down for 2016.

The Provincial Council reports were proposed by Belle O'Loughlin, Down Delegate and seconded by Rose Malone, Cork Delegate.

5) International Unit Reports

Australasian County Board

Noted.

European Board

Eddie Kelly, European Delegate noted that there were only three teams in 2015 but that there are six teams in 2016. Eddie thanked the Camogie Association for their continued support.

Britain Camogie Board

Katie Forde, Chairperson for Britain thanked the Uachtarán, the Ard Stiúrthóir and Mary O'Connor, Director of Camogie Development for attending the All Britain Championships (ABC) in 2105.

North American Board

Noted.

6) Educational Council Reports

CCAO

Noted.

7) Ard Chomhairle Sub-Committee Reports

National Resource Management Committee

Noted.

National Competitions Management Committee

Chairperson Hilda Breslin thanked the committee, Lizzy McGuinness, Fixtures Administrator and the National Referees for all of their co-operation during the year. She thanked the GAA for providing their venues. She also noted the huge work of county secretaries and wished to acknowledge this.

Volunteer and Officer Support, Training and Development

Chairperson Eilís Kavanagh thanked the committee and the previous Chairperson Máire Ní Cheallaigh for their work.

National Coaching and Games Development

Chairperson Éamonn Browne thanked the committee for their work throughout the year.

National Child Welfare and Protection Committee

Chairperson Mary Connor thanked the committee for their work. She stressed the importance of Children's Officers within clubs and counties. She appealed for counties to bring back the value of the upcoming Children's Officer course and not just for Children's Officers but for the whole executive.

National Referee, Support and Development Committee

Chairperson Aileen Lawlor sympathised with Peter Downey's family and friends. She thanked the committee and reiterated the importance for counties to recruit referees in order to continue the development of referees.

National Communications and Marketing Committee

Chairperson Fiona Casey thanked the committee and counties for participating in their PRO survey carried out in 2015 and highlighted the benefit of this.

All-Stars Committee

Chairperson Sheila O'Donohoe thanked the Committee for all of their work throughout the year and acknowledged Claire Egan the former Director of Communications and Marketing for her work.

National Transfer, Hearing and Disciplinary Committee (NTHDC)

Secretary of the NTHDC Joe O'Donnell thanked the committee and noted that it was a busy job but that they were happy to be involved.

National Finals Appeals Committee (NFAC)

Noted.

All Ireland Post Primary Schools Committee

Noted.

Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) queried if there was any data available on the level of participation in the Post-Primary Sector. The Ard Stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn noted that this data was not currently available. She undertook to request same from the Provinces and to advise.

Reports from Camogie Representatives on GAA Committee

Noted.

This group of reports were proposed by Sarah Conroy (Leinster Delegate) and Seconded by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle)

GAA National Child Welfare and Protection Committee

Noted.

All-Ireland Poc Fada Committee

Noted.

Féile na nGael Committee

Noted.

Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) asked if there was an evaluation completed on the new Féile Structures, and in particular the impact on the tier one counties. Caroline Murray (Programme and Initiatives Co-ordinator) noted that there wasn't anything specific available but there has been a huge increase in the level of participation and that there is no plan to go back to the old structure.

Hurling Development Committee

Noted.

Towards the 150th Anniversary of the GAA

Noted.

The Sub-Committee Reports were proposed by Fiona Hamilton (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Bríd Kennedy, Limerick Delegate.

The Uachtarán requested that standing orders be suspended in order to allow a presentation on behalf of ChildFund Ireland, Camogie Association's charity partner. This was proposed by Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) and agreed by consensus

Aoife Murray, ambassador for the Camogie Association's charity partner ChildFund Ireland, presented to Congress. The Uachtarán noted that this was a wonderful initiative and urged the Camogie Association to not just meet the target of 200 bikes but to surpass it.

Standing Orders were reinstated by consensus on the proposal of Phyllis Breslin and seconded by Marie Kearney.

8) Establishment of voting strength

The Ard Stiúrthóir called the attendance and the total voting strength was established as 89 (See Appendix 1)

It was declared that the Tellers would be Aileen Lawlor, Iar-Uachtarán and Mary Moran Iar-Uachtarán.

9) Consideration of Motion to amend the Official Guide Part I

Motion 7 Amend Rule 10.8 as follows:

That Rule 10.8

The National Final Appeals Committee will only hear and decide on cases first heard by the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee under Rule 10.7

is amended to:

The National Final Appeals Committee will only hear and decide on cases first **submitted to** or heard by the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee under Rule 10.7

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Bridghidín Heenan (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Mary Connor (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer advised that the rule as drafted is not technically accurate. If NTHDC receives a case but deems it out of order there is a right of appeal to the NFAC and the amendment is necessary to provide for this.

Joe O'Donnell, Secretary of the NTHDC noted that he felt that the change could cause problems as people could bypass the THDC committee.

Melanie Dunne (Wexford Delegate) disagreed and said that at the minute the way in which it is phrased if the appeal is deemed out of our order then the appeal is dead. Mary Connor (Ard Chomhairle) noted that the word 'first' is vital in the motion. Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle) noted that this is just to clarify an anomaly/loophole.

Vote 75% in favour, 25% against – Motion Passed

Motion 8 Amend Rule 15.2 as follows:

That Rule 15.2

Official correspondence must issue to and from the Secretary of the relevant Unit except:

- (i) when binding codes or mandatory codes of this Official Guide stipulate alternative correspondence procedures or
- (ii) a person is employed by the Unit to administer, in conjunction with, and, on behalf of, the Unit

is amended to:

Official correspondence must issue to and from the Secretary of the relevant Unit except:

- (i) when binding codes or mandatory codes of this Official Guide stipulate alternative correspondence procedures or

- (ii) a person is employed by the Unit *or Ard Chomhairle* to administer, in conjunction with, and, on behalf of, the Unit

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by James Moynihan (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Bridghidín Heenan (Ard Chomhairle).

Bridghidín Heenan (Ard Chomhairle) noted that the amendment will regularise the status of correspondence from staff as official correspondence under Rule.

Vote 87% in favour, 13% against – Motion Passed

Motion 9 Delete Rule 21.2 and replace with new text as follows:

Delete Rule 21.2

Fees for objections and appeals are as follows:

To a County Board (THDC Committee)	€100
To a Provincial Council (THD Committee)	€200
To a National THD Committee	€250
To a National Appeals Committee	€250
To a College Council (HD Committee)	as per their bye laws
Appeal for Clemency	€300

and replace with:

Fees for objections and appeals are set out in Official Guide Part IV Disciplinary Code and THDC Mandatory Procedures.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Kathleen Woods (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by James Moynihan (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer said that the motion proposes moving information about fees for appeals from the Official Guide Part 1 to the Official Guide Part IV which outlines mandatory procedures for hearings etc. The move is to provide all of the relevant information on appeals in the one document, for convenience for persons/Units wishing to submit an appeal or an objection. This move would also allow Ard Chomhairle to amend such fees as appropriate.

Vote 98% in favour, 2% against – Motion Passed

Motion 10 Amend Rule 22.2 as follows:

Amend Rule 22.2 by deleting the text indicated in ~~striketrough~~:

Each Unit within the Association is responsible for its finances. Financial management practices must be compliant with all legal requirements, ~~with third party funding requirements and professional accountancy standards requirements.~~ All Units will have

power to acquire, hold and develop, sell, lease, mortgage charge, exchange or sell Real and Personal Property, and to borrow or raise money in promotion of the objects of the Club, subject to the overall authority of Ard Chomhairle. The property shall not be leased, mortgaged, charged, exchanged, sold, conveyed, transferred or otherwise dealt with without the consent of Ard Chomhairle, or as may be set out in any separate Declaration of Trust.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Mary Connor (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer said this proposal to delete text as indicated is necessary as new documentation on mandatory financial procedures approved by Ard Chomhairle now sets out procedure on this matter.

Vote 95% in favour, 5% against – Motion Passed

Motion 11 Amend Rule 22.4 as follows:

That Rule 22.4

The funds of any Unit of the Association must be lodged in a bank or other financial institution. All payments issued on behalf of the Unit must be authorized by at least two members of the core Executive Committee of the Unit concerned. All payments are required to have at least two signatories from the core Executive Committee of the Unit concerned one of which must be the Treasurer. Decisions on signatories and payment procedures must be formally agreed and recorded at Executive Committee meeting(s) of the relevant Unit.

is amended as follows:

The funds of any Unit of the Association must be lodged in a bank or other financial institution, **approved by the Unit**. All payments issued on behalf of the Unit must be authorized by at least two members of the core Executive Committee of the Unit concerned. All payments are required to have at least two signatories from the core Executive Committee of the Unit concerned one of which must be the Treasurer. Decisions on signatories and payment procedures must be formally agreed and recorded at Executive Committee meeting(s) of the relevant Unit.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Kathleen Woods (Ard Chomhairle).

Vote 100% in favour, 0% against – Motion Passed

Motion 19 Amend Rule 34.1 as follows:

That Rule 34.1

All Ireland competitions must be held on an annual basis in the following grades: Senior, Intermediate, Premier Junior, Junior A, Junior B, Minor A, B and C, Under 16 A,

B and C Championships; National Leagues; Inter–Provincial Championship; Senior Intermediate and Junior Club Championships.

is amended as follows:

All Ireland inter county competitions, club competitions and inter-provincial competitions will be run annually in a manner decided by Ard Chomhairle.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Miriam O Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer said that it is proposed to amend Rule 34.1 so as that each year national competitions can be organised in a manner decided by Ard Chomhairle. The rule as drafted requires the Association to run specific competitions. This may not be possible annually as it depends on a number of factors including for example, sufficient team entries. Ard Chomhairle could inadvertently be in contravention of the Official Guide and this is not acceptable governance. A more generic wording would ensure that this is avoided in future.

Vote 94% in favour, 6% against – Motion Passed

Motion 20 Re-number Rule 34.2 as follows:

Re-number Rule 34.2 to Rule 35.1.1

The winners of the Provincial club championships will contest the All-Ireland semi-finals, except where Ard Chomhairle decides that the competition should be run on an open draw or other basis.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Geraldine McGrath (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer clarified that the rule currently is located incorrectly in the Official Guide. The rule applies to clubs and it is situated in the section relating to Inter-County competitions. The motion proposes moving the rule to the Section on All-Ireland Club Championships.

Vote 95% in favour, 5% against – Motion Passed

Motion 22 Amend Rule 41.9 as follows:

Amend Rule 41.9 by deleting the text indicated in ~~strike through~~

The Referee must dismiss a player from the field of play in the following instances:

a. by showing a red card when a player is adjudged by the Referee to have struck or attempted to strike an opponent, unless the Referee is satisfied that such was accidental.

b. Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee in connection with rough and/or dangerous play, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated her dismissal by showing the player a Red Card;

c. Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee for dissent or the use of abusive language, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated by showing the player a Red Card

d. for a first offence should she/he deem that the player's conduct warrants such. Such player shall be dealt with by the committee in charge in accordance with Rule 44.

e. A player dismissed from the field of play in a, b, c, or d above stand suspended until they appear before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee which will decide on the action to be taken (Section 27 and Section 44).

In all instances, substitution of a dismissed player will not be permitted. In the event of extra time teams revert to fifteen players. Players dismissed under Rule 41.9 a, b, c or d above during normal time may not play in extra time.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Kathleen Woods (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle)

The proposer gave the background to this motion; July 2015, Ard Chomhairle clarified that Rule 41.9 should be interpreted according to the draft, that is, an attempt to strike an opponent is not subject to a straight red card. The interpretation was required as the rule, prior to amendment, conflicted with the relevant playing rule.

Martin Noonan (Offaly Delegate) felt that if there was an attempt that this was still dangerous play. Marie Kearney noted that this would be a yellow card. Frank Higgins (Offaly Delegate) reiterated that it was still dangerous play if the attempt was still there.

Vote 68% in favour, 32% against – Motion Passed

Motion 23 Amend Rule 44.1.1.a (ii) as follows:

That Rule 44.1.1.a (ii)

There are three exceptions to Rule 44.1.1

(i) Where the player waives her right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The player must notify in writing, no later than seven days, of her dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of

her decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(ii) Where an official/mentor waives her/his right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The official/mentor must notify in writing within 5 days of her/his incident/dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her/his decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(iii) Where two yellow cards followed by a red card are issued, such dismissals are for the duration of the game, except for breaches reported of playing Rules 10.2 (h) and (k). If a player is reported by a Referee as being dismissed for the duration of a game more than once in any one playing season in a competition under the same Committee in Charge, she stands suspended until she appears before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee

is amended as follows:

There are three exceptions to Rule 44.1.1

(i) Where the player waives her right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The player must notify in writing, no later than seven days, of her dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(ii) Where an official/mentor waives her/his right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The official/mentor must notify in writing within **7** days of her/his incident/dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her/his decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(iii) Where two yellow cards followed by a red card are issued, such dismissals are for the duration of the game, except for breaches reported of playing Rules 10.2 (h) and (k) If a player is reported by a Referee as being dismissed for the duration of a game more than once in any one playing season in a competition under the same Committee in Charge, she stands suspended until she appears before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Geraldine McGrath (Ard Chomhairle)

The proposer said that the amendment is proposed to remove the discrepancy that exists for an official/mentor to waive their hearing compared to a player. The player in section (i) of the rule has 7 days to waive her hearing and accept the mandatory penalty while the official/mentor in section (ii) of the rule has only 5 days. Furthermore, a referee has 6 days to submit a report. It therefore may not be possible to waive a right to a hearing in advance of the receipt of a referee's report.

The amendment if passed will regularise the situation by changing the number of days from 5 to 7 for an official/mentor to notify the Committee of their wish to waive a right to a hearing and to accept the mandatory penalty.

Vote 98% in favour, 2% against – Motion Passed

Motion 24 Amend rule 44.1.1.a (iii) as follows:

That Rule 44.1.1.a (iii) (see above) is amended as follows:

(iii) Where two yellow cards followed by a red card are issued, such dismissals are for the duration of the game, except for breaches reported of playing Rules 10.2 (h) and (i) If a player is reported by a Referee as being dismissed for the duration of a game more than once in any one playing season in a competition under the same Committee in Charge, she stands suspended until she appears before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Bridghidín Heenan (Ard Chomhairle) and Seconded by Geraldine McGrath (Ard Chomhairle)

Vote 96% in favour, 4% against – Motion Passed

Motion 25 Amend Playing Rule 15.1 as follows:

That Playing Rule 15.1 Official Guide Part 2 be ratified as follows:

A goal is scored when the sliotar is played by either team over the goal-line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar, except when carried in the hand **by an attacking player over the goal-line**, or thrown over the goal-line by any player. A goal will be equal to three points.

Proposed by Mary Connor (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Fiona Hamilton (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer said that this motion seeks Congress' permission to formally ratify the correction of a playing rule that was published incorrectly in the 2012 Playing Rules Review and not correctly at last year's Congress as part of the Playing Rules Review. The rule was subsequently published in the correct format in the current playing rules and this was sanctioned by Ard Chomhairle during 2015. This correct wording, now before you in motion, needs Congress' ratification of the Ard Chomhairle decision.

Vote 95% in favour, 5% against – Motion Passed

10) Election of Ard Chomhairle Secretary – Declaration

As there was only one nominee, as outlined in the Congress documentation, the Uachtarán deemed Sheila O'Donohoe to be the new Secretary of Ard Chomhairle. The outgoing secretary Marie Kearney

wished Sheila the best in her new position. Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) thanked Marie Kearney for her time on Ard Chomhairle and wished Sheila the best of luck in her new position.

The Uachtarán closed Congress for the evening to be resumed at 9:30am on Saturday April 2nd.

Saturday 2nd April

Congress reconvened with an Uachtarán advising delegates that Congress would commence with the consideration of the audited accounts of Ard Chomhairle & Provincial Councils.

1) Audited Accounts

Paula Bruen, Finance Director presented the accounts to Congress.

An Uachtarán thanked Paula Bruen for her presentation of the accounts.

The audited accounts were proposed by Marion Graham (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle).

Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) commended Paula Bruen for the presentation and stated that she always has them in order.

Consideration of the Provincial Accounts

Connacht:

Fiona Hamilton (Connacht Chairperson) stated that Connacht's accounts were in line with last year, with no major changes.

Munster:

James Moynihan (Munster Chairperson) stated that Munster were happy with their accounts, and that all has been in order since their accounts were reviewed by Ard Chomhairle over the past two years.

Leinster:

Rachel Hogan (Leinster Chairperson) noted that Leinster as one of the biggest provinces had the highest receipt of affiliations fees. She also stated that as counties are aware half of those affiliations

are given back to counties once development receipts are received. She thanked Pasty Hetherington and the committee for keeping check on the accounts for the year.

Ulster:

Kathleen Woods (Ulster Chairperson) stated that Ulster are in a healthy financial position.

All audited accounts were proposed by Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Fiona Hamilton (Ard Chomhairle).

2) Ard Stiúrthóir's Report

The Ard Stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn gave an overview of the published Ard Stiúrthóir's Report for 2016 Congress. She highlighted various figures across different areas of the Association which showed an improvement across these areas such as; the number of fixtures played at National Level; number of first time All-Ireland winners; use of Hawk-eye score detection system; increase in membership, number of clubs and certified coaches; increase in media coverage and viewing numbers of All-Ireland Finals.

Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) congratulated the Ard Stiúrthóir on her report and the presentation made. She queried if counties appreciated the money being spent on development and also if the viewing figures were good in comparison to other female sports and if the Association was doing enough to generate publicity.

Seán Geraghty (Galway Delegate), Belle O'Loughlin (Down Delegate) and Mary McSweeney (Cork Delegate) also commended the Ard Stiúrthóir on her report.

The Ard Stiúrthóir's Report was proposed by Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Mary Connor (Ard Chomhairle).

3) National Development Plan Presentation

Eilís Kavanagh, Chairperson of the Volunteer and Officer Development Committee presented to Congress and discussed the priorities of the Committee for 2016/17. These included;

- Consultation with counties at Congress
- Developing a core training module for County Officers
- Delivering training via Provincial Councils
- Feedback to inform future training
- Establishing personnel to deliver club officer training, Design a Secretary's Handbook

Delegates were given worksheets for consultation regarding Officer Development where a discussion took place. The feedback from the consultation will help develop the work programme for the Officer Development Committee.

4) Membership Data

Mary O'Connor (Director of Camogie Development) Caroline Murray (Programme and Initiatives Co-ordinator) presented membership data compiled from the registration system in 2015.

Delegates were asked to work in groups in relation to three key questions regarding the use of membership data within their Units.

5) Óráid an Uachtaráin

An Uachtarán Catherine Neary addressed Congress (See Appendix 2).

Congress then broke for lunch.

On readjournment after lunch there was a request from Annie Redmond (North America Delegate) to speak as she had missed Friday night due to travel difficulties, and it was agreed by consensus to suspend the Standing Orders to allow her to do so.

Annie highlighted a number of points from her report and stated that North America was sending a team to the GAA World Games in August. She stated that there was an issue with coaching in North America and that they were trying to get trained coaches to come out to North America over the summer which could be funded by clubs.

Standing Orders were reinstated, on the proposal of by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle).

6) Establishment of voting strength

The Ard Stiúrthóir called the attendance and the total voting strength was established as 95 (See Appendix 1).

The Tellers, as ratified on Friday evening, were again declared as Aileen Lawlor, Iar-Uachtarán and Mary Moran Iar-Uachtarán.

7) Consideration of Motion to amend the Official Guide Part I

Motion 1 Amend Rule 3.2.1 as follows:

That Rule 3.2.1

The All-Ireland Post Primary Schools Committee, whose membership and terms of reference must be ratified by Ard Chomhairle, will run Camogie within the post-primary education sector for the academic years 2013-2016

is amended to read:

The All Ireland Post Primary Schools Committee, whose membership and terms of reference must be ratified by Ard Chomhairle, will run Camogie within the post-primary education sector for the academic years **2016-2018**.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Miriam O'Callaghan Ard Chomhairle Treasurer and seconded by Geraldine McGrath, Connacht delegate.

The proposer said that Ard Chomhairle puts forward this motion to ensure that the ongoing work relating to post primary fixtures administration at national level can continue for a further two years under the National Committee structure.

Congress previously agreed that a national committee structure be put in place until the end of the academic year 2016 i.e. June 2016.

During the course of the next two years it is envisaged that the status of the Committee would be reviewed by Ard Chomhairle to decide, in consultation with the schools sector, the most appropriate governance structure to run Camogie in post primary schools.

Maura McCloy (Derry Delegate) was concerned that post primary would not have a say at congress and they were doing great work in promoting the games of Camogie and should have a say at congress.

Belle O'Loughlin (Down Delegate) stated that Ard Chomhairle should work with members to establish a new Post-Primary Council and stated this proposal should be defeated to ensure a Council is put in place.

Bríd McNamara (Clare Delegate) queried had any approaches been made to establish a new committee.

Fiona Hamilton (Ard Chomhairle) outlined 3 different dates where Ard Chomhairle tried to engage post primary members to attend a meeting but this meeting had not taken place.

Breda Cunningham (Armagh Delegate) endorsed the comments of the previous speakers of Derry and Down and asked Congress to defeat the motion.

Sheila Norris (Kilkenny Delegate) queried what would happen if the motion was defeated.

An Uachtarán, clarified that the Post-Primary committee would revert to the structure that existed 2 years previously; i.e. a Post-Primary Council.

Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) outlined that attempts were made to meet provincial Post-Primary schools councils, but that these meetings did not happen. She also wanted to make clear that it was the Post-Primary Council 2 years ago that approached Ard Chomhairle to assist and that Ard Chomhairle were happy to do so. She also stated the Ard Chomhairle has appointed a second level servicing officer, a new chairperson in Maire Ní Cheallaigh of the All-Ireland post primary committee and that Máire hoped to meet the provincial councils individually. The proposer also stated that Ard Chomhairle were very supportive of Post-Primary school activity.

Vote 53% in Favour, 47% Against - Motion Failed

Motion 2 Amend Rule 4.1 as follows:

That Rule 4.1

Membership of the Association can only be granted by a Club or through a National Education Council. Membership is open to all persons who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Association. The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its sub- committees is designated as a player's home club. A Club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person. The decision to refuse membership must comply with relevant equality legislation

Is amended to read:

Membership of the Association can only be granted by a Club or through a National Education Council. Membership is open to all persons who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Association. The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its sub- committees is designated as a player's home club. A Club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person. The decision to refuse membership must comply with relevant equality legislation. **A person can only be registered with one club.**

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer stated that this motion seeks to put in place a rule that a person can only be registered with one club. The current rule does not say this and it may be possible for a person to register with two or more clubs. More than one club membership is contrary to good governance.

Sarah Conroy (Leinster Delegate) stated that Leinster had difficulty with the motion as an adult player could be a chairperson/secretary of a separate juvenile club and as a consequence of this motion they cannot vote in their own club.

Maura McCloy (Derry Delegate) queried if a person could coach in a different county and still be registered with their own club.

An Uachtarán clarified that they just had to be a member of the Camogie Association.

Rachel Hogan (Ard Chomhairle) queried can you register with two different clubs if one was LGFA and one was Camogie. An Uachtarán clarified that they were two separate Associations.

Vote 72% in Favour, 28% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 3 Amend Rule 4.1 as follows:

Proposed by Martin Nunan (Offaly Delegate) and seconded by Rose Malone (Cork Delegate).

Amend Rule 4.1 by deleting the text indicated in ~~strike through~~:

Membership of the Association can only be granted by a Club or through a National Education Council. Membership is open to all persons who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Association. ~~The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its subcommittees is designated as a player's home club.~~ A Club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person. The decision to refuse membership must comply with relevant equality legislation

and insert new Rule 4.1.1

A County Bye-Law may confine membership of a club to a catchment area, which may be a parish. A parish for the purpose of this rule shall, subject to county boundaries, be the district under the jurisdiction of a Parish Priest or Administrator. A catchment area shall be fundamentally based on permanent residence of players, subject to a player being entitled to play with her/their home Club. Permanent Residence shall be defined in County Bye-Law. A County shall also have the option, within County Bye-Law, to allow a player to play with a club in the area in which she works. A player who wishes to leave one Club to join another in the same County must apply to the County THDC Committee for a transfer.

Uibh Fháilí

Vote 26% in Favour, 74 % Against – Motion Failed

Motion 4 Amend Rule 4.2.1 as follows:

That Rule 4.2.1

There will be four types of membership

- (i) Full membership for persons who are players and have reached the age of 18 years
- (ii) Youth membership for persons who are players and have not reached the age of eighteen years
- (iii) Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Mentors at all levels of the Association who are non-players
- (iv) Social membership; may be granted to persons, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the Camogie Association, but who do not seek to take part in the administrative or games related affairs of the Club. These members will have full voting rights as per rule 18.3.a.

Is amended to read:

There will be four types of membership

- (i) Full membership for persons who are players and have reached the age of 18 years
- (ii) Child membership for persons who are players and are aged under 8 ('under' is as per the definition in Rule 28.4)**
- (iii) Youth membership for persons who are players and are aged over 8 ('over' is as per the definition in Rule 28.4)** and have not reached the age of eighteen years
- (iv) Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Members at all levels of the Association who are non-players**
- (v) Social membership; may be granted to persons, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the Camogie Association, but who do not seek to take part in the administrative or games related affairs of the Club. These members will have full voting rights as per rule 18.3.a.**

[Rules affected 4.2.2]

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Mary Connor (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer stated that the rulebook currently does not indicate the minimum age for membership and registration with the Camogie Association.

One of the consequences of this is that our membership may be under-represented as children of nursery age and children aged up to age 7 at club level may not be registering with us.

This motion provides for the registration of children aged under 8. It also proposes that youth membership age is re-classified to include children and young people who are aged over 8.

Rule affected 4.2.2 and table attached to Rule 4.2.2

Joan Dunphy (Laois Delegate) stated this rule change was detrimental to small clubs and that the club need the registration money for revenue.

Vote 81% in Favour, 19% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 5 Amend Rule 4.2.2 as follows:

That Rule 4.2.2

Before 30th April each year a club must submit annually affiliation/membership fees as outlined in the table below. Once a club is affiliated, its members remain registered until 29th April of the following year.

Affiliation fee/Membership type	Total	Affiliation fee per member to County Board	Affiliation fee per member to Provincial Council	Affiliation fee per member to Ard Chomhairle
Youth members (players)	€13	€5	€2	€6
Full members (Adult players)	€23	€5	€2	€16

Full members (Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Members at all levels of the Association)	€3	€0	€0	€3
Social members	All revenue to club			

is amended to read

Before 30th April each year a club must submit annually affiliation/membership fees as outlined in the table below. Once a club is affiliated, its members remain registered until 29th April of the following year.

Affiliation fee/Membership type	Total	Affiliation fee per member to County Board	Affiliation fee per member to Provincial Council	Affiliation fee per member to Ard Chomhairle
<i>Child members aged under 8 (players)</i>	<i>All revenue to club</i>			
Youth members <i>aged over 8</i> (players)	€13	€5	€2	€6
Full members (Adult players)	€23	€5	€2	€16
Full members (Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Members at all levels of the Association)	€3	€0	€0	€3
Social members	All revenue to club			

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Fiona Hamilton (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Phyllis Breslin (Ard Chomhairle).

It was noted that this motion gives effect to the change agreed in Motion 4 and the table in Rule 4.2.2 is duly amended in accordance with Motion 4. All revenue for Under 8s would remain in the clubs and registration for over 8s would remain the same.

Linda Kenny (Carlow Delegate) queried when this rule would come in to effect.

An Uachtarán clarified that it would come in to effect with 2017 registrations.

Martin Nunan (Offaly Delegate) queried Insurance for these u8 players.

An Uachtarán clarified that it was each clubs' individual responsibility to ensure that their players are insured.

Mary Burke (Meath Delegate) queried how much clubs can charge for U8's to be members.

An Uachtarán clarified that it was up to individual clubs to set the membership fee.

Vote 91% in Favour, 9% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 6 Insert new Rule 10.2 h as follows:

Add new rule 10.2h

Ard Chomhairle will have an Executive Committee comprising the Uachtarán, Secretary of Ard Chomhairle, Treasurer of Ard Chomhairle and the Ard Stiúrthóir (who is a non-voting member of the Executive).

In the event of one or more voting Executive members being unavailable, one or more Trustees will participate as an Executive member. A quorum of three is required on all occasions for Executive decisions.

The Executive has delegated authority from Ard Chomhairle to consider critical or urgent Association issues, as deemed necessary by the Uachtarán, and to make decisions on these, between Ard Chomhairle meetings. Such decisions must be appraised to Ard Chomhairle members immediately.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Fiona Hamilton (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer stated that each Unit of the Association has an Executive Committee but Ard Chomhairle as the governing body does not have such a Committee.

The proposer stated that when events happen and a decision must be reached quickly, it can be difficult to get all members of Ard Chomhairle together. The Association needs to be in a position to respond to sudden, critical or unforeseen circumstances immediately once a position has been agreed. This committee would be responsible to Ard Chomhairle.

Belle O'Loughlin (Down Delegate) stated that Down were against motion as Down place their trust in Ard Chomhairle and they feel they do not need this committee.

Rose Malone (Cork Delegate) queried what was considered critical or urgent.

Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle) responded that a scenario that was unforeseen and the time frame to respond was tight.

Breda Cunningham (Armagh Delegate) stated the decision making process should remain as is and that this proposal could set a dangerous precedent.

Sarah Conroy (Leinster Delegate) supported the Armagh Delegate and stated that Leinster feel the committee would take away the power from Ard Chomhairle.

Marie Kearney (Ard Chomhairle) stated that this proposal was for good governance and was not to dilute the power and decision making of Ard Chomhairle as trying to get a quorum of Ard Chomhairle members together was difficult.

Vote 40% in Favour, 60% Against – Motion Failed

Motion 12 Amend Rule 27.8 as follows:

Delete Rule 27.8

Timeframes for dealing with disciplinary matters are as follow: Executive Committee referral to the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee within three days of suspected breach being brought to their attention. The Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee must initiate a hearing and/or investigation within seven days of receiving referral. The Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee must issue its final decision to the party or parties no later than 21 days from the original notification of the breach (Section 44 and Rule 45 re penalties).

and replace with

Disciplinary hearing timeframes are outlined in the Official Guide Part IV Disciplinary Code and THDC Mandatory Procedures.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Marion Graham (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Brónagh McIntyre (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer stated that Ard Chomhairle is proposing that it is more appropriate and convenient for the disciplinary timeframes outlined in Rule 27.8 to be moved from the Official Guide Part I to the Official Guide Part IV which is the Disciplinary Code and Mandatory THDC Procedures for Hearings. This move will also allow Ard Chomhairle to review the timeframes if necessary.

The motion proposes new text for Rule 27.8 which refers people to the THDC Mandatory Procedures for the timeframes.

Vote 95% in Favour, 5% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 13 Amend Rule 28.5 as follows:

That Rule 28.5

Where Clubs have insufficient numbers of players in underage competitions, they may combine with a team from another club to participate in competitions, subject to prior approval from the Unit in charge

Is amended as follows:

Where Clubs have insufficient number of players ***to compete*** in underage competitions, they may combine with a team ***from only one other specific club***, to participate in ***underage*** competitions, subject to the ***annual*** prior approval from the Unit in charge. ***A team is deemed to be a combined team if it comprises three or more players from a different club. Players from no more than 3 clubs may combine to compete as a single team.***

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Geraldine McGrath (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Miriam O Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer stated that rule 28.5 is in place to allow clubs who may not have sufficient underage players to combine to ensure game time and competition for players. One of the issues in the implementation of this rule is that players from such clubs may go to a number of other clubs. This dilutes their connection to their home club and is difficult to monitor. This motion aims to streamline the process for allowing underage players to 'go on loan' but restricting the number of clubs that they may disperse to. The proposal is that players who cannot field a team from their home club must all go on loan to the same club, provided the county board agrees in advance.

Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) stated that this proposal was about protecting the substantive club structure that exists and by all the players going to one particular club, they are going out as a unit on loan to that club.

Sarah Conroy (Leinster Delegate) raised a concern about the clarity of the wording of the motion in relation to the number of clubs who may combine.

Katie Forde (Britain Delegate) queried if the proposed motion only applied to underage Camogie.

An Uachtarán clarified that this motion was only applicable to underage Camogie.

Geraldine McGrath (Ard Chomhairle) stated that it would be easier to streamline and control where players are going to and that it would not involve more than three clubs.

Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) asked congress to support this motion. Clubs in rural areas are dwindling and this is a solution in the short term loan of players and they can then return to home club.

Vote 73% in Favour, 27% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 14 Insert new rule 28.5.1 as follows:

Insert new Rule 28.5.1

When under age clubs do not have sufficient numbers of eligible players to play in adult competition, they may combine with a team from only one other specific club to participate in adult competition until the Unit in charge determines that the club has sufficient numbers to play adult competition. Such combinations are subject to the annual prior approval of the Unit in charge. A team is deemed to be a combined team if it comprises three or more players from a different club. Players from no more than 3 clubs may combine to compete as a single team.

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Rachel Hogan (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer explained that this motion is addressing a similar issue to that which has been discussed under Motion 13.

The motion reflects concerns where young players were obliged to transfer so that they could play adult camogie. This is undermining the growth of underage clubs into adult clubs as it is diluting the membership base. It is critical to nurture these clubs, particularly in the context of developing new clubs or consolidating struggling clubs.

The motion proposes a new rule that allow players to 'go on loan' to play adult camogie until such time as the underage club can field at adult level. Such decisions require the agreement of the county board.

The motion also restricts the number of clubs who can join up and this is to ensure fair competition across clubs.

Annie Redmond (North America Delegate) stated it would be a concern for North American clubs.

Mary McSweeney (Cork Delegate) stated that in Cork they have divisional teams, does this motion affect them.

An Uachtarán clarified that this rule was for adult club teams only.

Rose Malone (Cork Delegate) stated that in Cork the divisions are defined by the GAA and that for instances 5 junior camogie teams come together to play senior camogie for their division, so would this rule exclude u18 players?

Miriam O'Callaghan (Ard Chomhairle) responded that in relation to North America the issue could be addressed by AC giving a derogation to International units in light of the differences they experience. In relation to Cork it would and it would be a matter for the Cork board.

Vote 68% in Favour, 32% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 15 That Rule 28.7 is deleted as follows:

Delete Rule 28.7

Combination or divisional teams may not enter the provincial and All-Ireland Club Championship competitions. In the case where a combination/divisional being county champions, the beaten finalists will represent the county. In the event of the finalists being two divisional/combined teams the beaten semi-finalists will play off to represent their county.

Tír Eoghain

Proposed by Déirdre Nic Gearailt (Tyrone Delegate) and seconded by Martin Donnelly (Tyrone Delegate).

Déirdre Nic Gearailt (Tyrone Delegate) stated that there was not enough players to a make a senior team in club and that an incentive is needed for players. This rule was crucifying senior players in clubs and that young players need senior players in their club to aspire to.

Katie Forde (Britain Delegate) supported Tyrone motion; a lot of effort goes in to organising and training a team for competition, that if a county board permits a team to enter a competition, they should be entitled to go on to the next stage should they win in their county.

Vote 47% in Favour, 53% against – Motion Failed

Motion 16 Amend Rule 31.3 as follows:

That Rule 31.3

A transfer must not be refused to a player already registered with a Camogie club who wishes to transfer to a newly established camogie club in the locality where she is ordinarily resident

is amended as follows:

A transfer must not be refused to a player:

(i) **who is** already registered with a Camogie club and **who** wishes to transfer to a newly established camogie club in the locality where she is ordinarily resident

(ii) who has never participated in underage competitions under the auspices of the Unit in charge. Under age competitions refer to league and/or championship competitions run by the Unit in charge and that fall outside the terms of games activities for players under12 as outlined in Rule 33.8

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Rachel Hogan (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Bridghidín Heenan (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer stated that currently the rules around transfer requests do not take into account the age of players. Transfers of underage players, and particularly very young players have proven to be difficult for clubs, parents and children.

The motion proposes to put in place a new rule that means a child does not need a transfer if she has only participated in underage games activities such as Go Games or games that are akin to games development activities as outlined in Rule 33.8.

Otherwise, any child regardless of age who plays in underage competitions under the auspices of the county or provincial council will be required to submit a transfer request should she wish to move clubs.

Rose Malone (Cork Delegate) stated that the current transferring process for underage players is distressing for everyone involved and that the Association needs to stand up and be counted. These players are children and have the rights of a child.

Rachel Hogan (Ard Chomhairle) responded that the proposal was that if the player had only played in Go Games, that she would not need a transfer.

Melanie Dunne (Wexford Delegate) wanted clarification that if the player played Go Games and Under 14 competition does the player still need a transfer.

Rachel Hogan (Ard Chomhairle) responded that the player will need a transfer if they have played in competition for their club.

Jojo Tobin (Waterford Delegate) stated that a club could invest a lot of time in a player from aged 5 up and when they come to 12 they could just go to another club without a transfer.

Vote 38% in Favour, 62% Against – Motion Failed

Motion 17 That Rule 31.7 is deleted as follows:

Delete Rule 31.7

Transfers are not necessary in the following instances:

- From one club to another within a county or in another county if player has not taken part in any competitive match with a Club for a period of twenty-four months
- From a club which has disbanded.”

and replace as follows

Transfers are not necessary in the instance where a club has disbanded

Uibh Fháilí

Proposer Martin Nunan (Offaly Delegate) seconded Rose Malone (Cork Delegate).

Martin Nunan (Offaly Delegate) asking for the abolition of the 2 year rule and that it shows discourtesy to clubs that have put time and energy in to that player. It is about the protection of clubs and building the game at local level.

Vote 34% in Favour, 66% Against – Motion Failed

Motion 18 Amend Rule 33.3 as follows:

That Rule 33.3

Where a team has been notified in accordance with Rule 33.2 of a fixture and fails to fulfill that fixture, the committee in charge of the competition must impose the following penalties:

- In all cases the match will be awarded to that team’s opponents in the fixture;
- In the case of leagues and championships run on a league basis the defaulting team(s) will be deducted two points.

is amended as follows:

Where a team has been notified in accordance with Rule 33.2 of a fixture and fails to

fulfill that fixture, the committee in charge of the competition must impose the following penalties:

- In all cases the match will be awarded to that team's opponents in the fixture;
- In the case of leagues and championships run on a league basis the defaulting team(s) will be deducted two points.

In the case of national inter county, club or inter-provincial competitions under Ard Chomhairle's auspices, any team who concedes a game cannot progress to the knock-out stages of a competition i.e. quarter final, semifinal or final

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Fiona Hamilton (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle).

The proposer stated that this motion seeks to address fairness within national competitions. It proposes that for a team to progress to the knock out stages of national competitions, it must not concede a fixture. This is to promote the national games' programme and to support all teams to be assured of a minimum number of scheduled games.

Vote 74% in Favour, 26% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 21 Amend Rule 40.3 as follows:

That Rule 40.3

Referees must be members of the Camogie Association or the GAA

Is amended as follows:

Referees must be members of the Camogie Association or the GAA, ***except for referees on the national panel who must be registered members of the Camogie Association***

Ard Chomhairle

Proposed by Éamonn Browne (Ard Chomhairle) and seconded by Rachel Hogan (Ard Chomhairle).

Vote 96% in Favour, 4% Against – Motion Passed

Motion 26 Amend Rule 44.1.2 as follows:

That Rule 44.1.2

The following mandatory penalties apply in the following circumstances:

- a. Persistent dissent by a player or team official towards a Referee's decision

- An automatic two match ban for the player or official in the competition that the offence took place.
- b. To use abusive or threatening language, gestures or behaviour, (including but not limited to anything which could be construed as sectarian, racist or homophobic), towards a Referee, match official, any player or team official.
- An automatic two match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in. For the purposes of a match ban tournaments and challenge/friendly games are not considered official competitions.
 - The Unit which the player/official was representing in competition will be fined €100 for a first offence. The fine will increase by €100 for each subsequent guilty offence within the calendar year, i.e. for the 3rd guilty offence in same year the fine will be €300
 - Should the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee adjudge the offence sufficiently serious, it may disqualify the offender's team from the competition in question.
- c. Punching, hitting (without a hurley) or kicking a player in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental
- An automatic three match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.
- d. Kicking, hitting or striking of a match official by a player or team mentor or known partisan in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
- An automatic 48 weeks suspension from all camogie membership and activity.
- e. Striking a player with a hurley in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
- An automatic three match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.
- In the case of a. to e. above, all penalties will carry over from one season to the next until the ban is fully served

is amended as follows:

The following mandatory penalties apply in the following circumstances:

- a. Persistent dissent by a player or team official towards a Referee's decision
- An automatic **one** match ban for the player or official in the competition that the offence took place
- b. To use abusive or threatening language, gestures or behaviour, (including but not limited to anything which could be construed as sectarian, racist or homophobic), towards a Referee, match official, any player or team official.
- An automatic **one** match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in. For the purposes of a match ban tournaments and challenge/friendly games are not considered official competitions.

- The Unit which the player/official was representing in competition will be fined €100 for a first offence. The fine will increase by €100 for each subsequent guilty offence within the calendar year, i.e. for the 3rd guilty offence in same year the fine will be €300
- Should the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee adjudge the offence sufficiently serious, it may disqualify the offender's team from the competition in question.
 - c. Punching, hitting (without a hurley) or kicking a player in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental
 - An automatic **one** match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.
 - d. Kicking, hitting or striking of a match official by a player or team mentor or known partisan in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
 - An automatic 48 weeks suspension from all camogie membership and activity.
 - e. Striking a player with a hurley in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
 - An automatic **one** match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.

In the case of a. to e. above, all penalties will carry over from one season to the next until the ban is fully served.

Comhairle Chonnachta

Proposed by Deirdre Burke (Connacht Delegate) and seconded by Noel Kelly (Galway Delegate).

Deirdre Burke (Connacht Delegate) said that a one match ban is sufficient. It would bring us in line with our male counterparts.

Noel Kelly (Galway Delegate) said that the sanction of 1 game is sufficient for the GAA and it should be sufficient for camogie. We are the one family of Gaelic games using the same referees.

Seán Geraghty (Galway Delegate) stated that Camogie should be equal with GAA and asked people to support the motion.

Rose Malone (Cork Delegate) stated that Camogie should not be worried about what the GAA do on this issue. She said that we should encourage people to play the game in the right way and if you don't that there should be a punishment for that.

Deirdre Burke (Connacht Delegate) that this rule was too severe and could rule a player out for a whole championship.

Vote 43% in Favour, 57% Against - Motion Failed

That concluded the business of motions at Congress 2016

8) Venue of next Congress

An Uachtarán stated that Congress 2017 would be held in Dublin on the last weekend in March.

9) Críoch of Meeting

Annual Congress was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem by Orfhlaith Ní Bhriain.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Attendance at Annual Congress 2016

Friday April 1st 2016

Catherine Neary, Uachtarán

Joan O'Flynn, Ard Stiúrthóir

Miriam O'Callaghan, Cisteoir

Phyllis Breslin, Trustee

Marion Graham, Trustee

Kathleen Woods, Ulster Chairperson

Rachel Hogan, Leinster Chairperson

Fiona Hamilton, Connacht Chairperson

James Moynihan, Munster Chairperson

Éamonn Browne, Coaching and Games Rep to Ard Chomhairle

Geraldine McGrath, Connacht Delegate to Ard Chomhairle

Mary Connor, Leinster Delegate to Ard Chomhairle

Bridghidín Heenan, Ulster Delegate to Ard Chomhairle

Marie Kearney, Secretary to Ard Chomhairle

Bróna McIntyre, PR and Communications Rep to AC

Sarah Conroy (Laighean), Rosemary Hughes-Merry (Uladh), Joe O'Donnell (Mumhan), Provincial Council Delegates

Karen McCormack, Mary Herald, Claire Toal (Aontroim)

Paula McGuigan, Aoife Woods, Emma Teggart, Breda Cunningham (Ard Mhacha)

Pat Martin, Brendan Cooper, Barbara Grennell, Mona O'Sullivan, Gerry O'Sullivan (Áth Cliath)

Maura McGurran, Ann McConnell (An Cabhán)

Linda Kenny, Elaine Kavanagh (Ceatharlach)

Sarah Leahy, Joanne Diggin (Ciarraí)

Sheila Norris, Martin Quilty, Damien Donohoe, Joan Gaule, Jer Donovan, (Cill Chainnigh)

Margaret Sexton, Roberta Farrell, Olive Reddy, Liz O'Donohoe (Cill Dara)

Alma Keane, Bríd McNamara (An Clár)
Sheila Golden, Shirley Moloney, Rose Malone (Corcaigh)
Dympna Duggan, Maura McCloy, Anne McNabb, Colette Darragh (Doire)
Belle O'Loughlin, Mairead Rooney (An Dún)
Frank Duane, J.J Manton, Sean Geraghty, Noel Kelly, Catherine Kilkelly, Edel Sheilds (Gaillimh)
Mary Glynn, John Weir (An Iarmhí)
Barney O'Connor, Joan Dunphy (Laois)
Ailish Whitty, Ray Quigley, Melanie Ni Dhuinn, Maire O'Connor, Angela Gahan, Deirdre Colfer (Loch Garman)
Mairead Lynch, Rachel Hamilton (An Lú)
Bríd Kennedy, Sean Condon, Bridget Stanley, Mairead Dempsey (Luimnech)
Mary Burke, Margaret Burke (An Mhí)
Kitty Morley, Angela Chambers (Maigh Eo)
Anne Marie O'Gorman, Jojo Tobin (Port Láirge)
Niamh Kilmartin, Marie O'Brien (Roscomáin)
Bernie O'Dowd (Tiobraid Árann)
Déirdre Níc Ghearáilt, Martin Donnelly (Tír Eoghain)
Frank Higgins, Martin Nunan (Uibh Fháighle)
Katie Forde (Britain)
Eddie Kelly (Europe)
Mairéad O'Callaghan (Cumann na mBunscol)

Saturday April 2nd 2016

Catherine Neary, Uachtarán

Joan O'Flynn, Ard Stiúrthóir

Miriam O'Callaghan, Cisteoir

Phyllis Breslin, Trustee

Marion Graham, Trustee

Kathleen Woods, Ulster Chairperson

Rachel Hogan, Leinster Chairperson

Fiona Hamilton, Connacht Chairperson

James Moynihan, Munster Chairperson

Éamonn Browne, Coaching and Games Rep to Ard Chomhairle

Geraldine McGrath, Connacht Delegate to Ard Chomhairle

Bridghidin Heenan, Ulster Delegate to Ard Chomhairle

Marie Kearney, Secretary to Ard Chomhairle

Mary Connor, Leinster Delegate to Ard Chomhairle

Bróna McIntyre, PR and Communications Rep to Ard Chomhairle

Sarah Conroy (Laighean), Rosemary Hughes-Merry (Uladh), Joe O'Donnell (Mumhan), Deirdre Burke (Connacht), Provincial Council Delegates

Karen McCormach, Mary Herald, Claire Toal (Aontroim)

Paula McGuigan, Aoife Woods, Emma Teggart, Breda Cunningham (Ard Mhacha)

Pat Martin, Brendan Cooper, Barbara Grennell, Louise Dumbrell, Mona O'Sullivan, Gerry O'Sullivan (Áth Cliath)

Maura McGurren, Ann McConnell (An Cabhán)

Linda Kenny, Elaine Kavanagh (Ceatharlach)

Sarah Leahy, Michelle Costelloe (Ciarraí)

Sheila Norris, Martin Quilty, Damien Donohoe, Joan Gaule, Jer Donovan, (Cill Chainnigh)

Margaret Sexton, Roberta Farrell, Olive Reddy, Liz O'Donohoe (Cill Dara)

Alma Keane, Bríd McNamara (An Clár)

Mary McSweeney, Marian McCarthy, Sheila Golden, Shirley Moloney, Rose Malone (Corcaigh)

Dympna Duggan, Maura McCloy, Anne McNabb, Colette Darragh (Doire)

Belle O'Loughlin, Mairead Rooney (An Dún)

Frank Dunne, J.J Manton, Sean Geraghty, Noel Kelly, Catherine Kilkelly, Edel Sheilds (Gaillimh)

Mary Glynn, John Weir (An Iarmhí)

Barney O'Connor, Joan Dunphy (Laois)

Ailish Whitty, Ray Quigley, Melanie Ni Dhuinn, Maire O'Connor, Angela Gahan, Deirdre Colfer (Loch Garman)

Mairead Lynch, Rachel Hamilton (An Lú)

Bríd Kennedy, Bridget Stanley, Mairead Dempsey (Luimneach)

Mary Burke, Margaret Burke (An Mhí)

Kitty Morley, Angela Chambers (Maigh Eo)

Anne Marie O'Gorman, Jojo Tobin (Port Láirge)

Niamh Kilmartin, Marie O'Brien (Roscomáin)

John Foley, Carmel Harkin, Bernie O'Dowd (Tiobraid Árann)

Déirdre Níc Ghearáilt, Martin Donnelly (Tír Eoghain)

Martin Nunan (Uibh Fháighle)

Katie Forde (Britain)

Annie Redmond (Meirceá Thuaidh)

Eddie Kelly (Europe)

Mairéad O'Callaghan (Cumman na mBunscol)

Appendix 2

Óráid an Uachtaráin Catherine Neary to Congress 2016

Leas Uachtarán, Ard Stiúrthóir, Iar-Uachtarán, a dhaoine uaisle, as we gather here this weekend for congress I would firstly like to reflect on what is a significant year in our country's history.

Much has been said about the role of women during the Easter rising and in the events that led up to it. I would like to acknowledge their role. Women like Bridget Foley who played in first Keatings game in 1904 was a Courier for Tomas McCurtain on 17 April 1916 and she was to be found in a number of locations throughout the rising week including the GPO. The Pollard sisters (Kathleen & Josephine) from Lorcan O'Toole's Club both took part in the rising and were stationed at Jacob's Biscuit Factory. Agnes O'Farrelly former Life President of the Camogie Association chaired the first meeting of Cumann na mBan and Mollie Gill the longest service National President was a member of Cumann na mBan during the rebellion years. Indeed it was Agnes who persuaded her friend Lord Ashbourne to donate the Ashbourne Cup for Intervarsity Camogie Competition in 1915.

Two former presidents of the Camogie Association have a direct family connection to 1916; Brídín Uí Mhaolagáin's father Séamus Dobbyn was a member of a group that assembled in Coalisland during Holy Week and along with his father Henry and brother Phonsie were interned in Frongoch, Wales. Phyllis Breslin's grandfather Thomás and his 3 brothers (Peadar, Christopher and James) were at the Four Courts / King St in 1916 along with Sean O'Duffy after whom the Senior All Ireland Camogie All Ireland Cup is named.

Those involved in the founding of the Camogie Association were women and men of great vision, they were people who had a vision of a better Ireland and I acknowledge their contribution not just to camogie but to society in general. This year will provide us all with an opportunity to re-discover and remember our past, while commemorating those who have gone before us and eased our path. It provides an opportunity for us to promote the game of camogie as a sport that is open to all and a unique symbol of our culture.

Throughout the year there will be a number of commemorative events and we have seen many camogie clubs already mark this special year by running events highlighting the link between camogie and 1916 commemorations. The Camogie 1916 committee which is chaired by Marie Kearney is currently carrying out research and I have no doubt they would welcome contributions and assistance.

Looking back, 2015 was another great year for Camogie; Cork retained their Senior All Ireland Crown and joined Dublin at the top of the Roll of Honour of counties who have won All Ireland Senior Titles. On a personal note it was a great honour to host Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabine along with the Taoiseach Enda Kenny on behalf of the association when they attended our All Ireland finals. The six teams who participated on the day provided us with a great display of skill and endeavour and represented the association, their counties and themselves in the best way possible. Congratulations to the successful Liberty Insurance All Ireland winners, Cork, Waterford, Laois and Carlow, and to our 3 AIB All Ireland Clubs Champions, Milford, Cahir and Johnstownbridge.

It is right to recognise the achievements of teams, but the achievements of the individuals within those teams should also be recognised, congratulations to the 2015 All Stars and Soaring Stars. Our players are tremendous ambassadors of our sport. I want to thank you for the commitment to our game and once again you have showcased the game of camogie at the highest level. Camogie is a team game but some players compete as individuals on behalf of their county I wish to congratulate Patricia Jackman who secured her 7th National Poc Fada title in a row.

The 2015 Féile na nGael took place across the Province of Ulster. It was a great success and a memorable experience for all those involved I particularly want to thank the National Féile Committee, Ulster Camogie, Ulster GAA, the host families, our staff and all the volunteers involved in organising and running not just the national Féile but also the provincial Féile's. Míle buíochas to all of the host venues who were so accommodating. I look forward to attending this year's Féile in Waterford and Tipperary.

Sponsorship provides much needed funds for the association and I would like to thank our sponsors. Particularly our ongoing partnership with Liberty Insurance sponsors of our All Stars Awards and All Ireland Series and to AIB sponsors of our Club Championships. Your continued support is much appreciated and I look forward to working with you over the coming year. I would also like to say thanks to the numerous sponsors who provide sponsorship that enables the counties and clubs to participate in, and promote the game of camogie. Many of these sponsors are integral parts of their communities and their contribution should be recognised nationally.

The Inaugural Camogie Association / WGPA Players Player of the Year Awards were a great success. I hope that this project is the first of many where both organisations continue to work together on a partnership basis to promote the game of camogie and our players.

Camogie is not only played on the Island of Ireland but on four continents. I attended the ABC Games in London where teams from all across the UK competed in Camogie, Hurling and Football. I look

forward to seeing this tournament grow and develop in the coming years. I attended the CYC Games in San Francisco where I saw children from all over North America playing camogie, hurling and football over 4 days in one venue. These events are testament not only to the hard work put into the promotion of not just camogie but the Gaelic Games family and we should not lose sight of the fact that these events provide us with an opportunity to promote camogie further afield in an increasingly globalised world.

When I took up the post of president last year there were a number of issues that I wished to address during the term of my presidency.

While this is an exciting time for camogie it is also a challenging time not just for camogie but for women's sport generally. I have no doubt or hesitation in my belief that the Camogie Association is a forward thinking and vibrant organisation. The 2015 Liberty Insurance All Ireland Finals saw an increase in attendance to 16,000 the highest attendance in the past five years. The TV viewing figures for the All Ireland Finals peaked at 305,000 which evidence an appetite from our membership and the public to watch our game. Initiatives such as the Liberty Insurance pledge to bring your daughter, niece, sister, cousin to a women's sporting event in 2015 are all part of how we as members of the camogie association can work to encourage our own members and others to acquire the habit of attending and supporting our games. There are not many of us who did not start attending games because of the influence of an adult.

Our membership continues to increase and the introduction of individual membership has for the first time allowed us to collate information on the make-up of our membership. This in turn will allow us to tailor development for our players, coaches, referees, administrators and our members to best meet their needs.

However, we should not be satisfied with once off achievements. I believe it is important that a dynamic and thriving association build on its achievements and the recently launched National Development Plan 'Our Sport Our Future' is key to this. During 2015 the committee charged with producing the new development plan engaged in a consultative process. They consulted widely; over 1000 people engaged in the consultation, these included individual members, players, coaches and other sporting and non-sporting organisations. Thank you to all those who contributed to the final plan particularly the committee members who gave so much of their time.

There is now a focus on women's sport and camogie has the opportunity to take its place as one of the leading lights in ensuring that everyone is welcome and encouraged to get involved in a creative organisation with a vision of how our game will look not just to ourselves but to the wider audience

at home and abroad. *Our Sport Our Future* clearly puts such a vision forward to enable us to achieve those goals. Our goals are based on the information given by all those who took part in the process of formulating this plan, they outline our belief in our game and our association and the focus on their delivery unites us.

The implementation of Our Sport Our Future will allow the camogie association to act strategically about the future of our game in the context of our vision and core values. Our vision may seem simple but carries a strong message. *'Inspire to play, empower to stay'*. This may seem a simple statement. It will however prove to be a challenging and demanding vision. *"Inspiring to play"* means more than simply providing the opportunity to participate, it means that every individual should strive to be as good as they can be irrespective of whether that is winning an All-Ireland medal or hitting the ball out of your hand for the first time. We should be promoting improving yourself and valuing all standards. That can only be achieved by *"empowering to stay"* providing a standard of coaching and training and support that is based on best practise and not just something that has simply always been done that way. An empowered organisation is one that all levels feel able to take responsibility for their decisions and that their views are listened to. This in my view sums up perfectly what we as an organisation should be aiming to achieve and promote. The values of the Camogie association are important enough to be included in the official guide and these are reflected in the values of Our Game Our Sport. The values Innovation, Leadership, Voluntarism, Fun, Integrity, Excellence and Inclusiveness, form the basis of everything we wish to achieve. However, it is not enough to develop a strategy we must deliver it, otherwise it has no value and as an organisation we owe it to our players and our members. Indeed they should expect us to deliver this strategy.

So how will we ensure that Our Game Our Sport is delivered? A group has been set up to oversee its implementation it has been proposed that the chair of this group will be a member of Ard Chomhairle for the duration of the plan. The group will monitor the objectives of the plan and will feedback directly to Ard Chomhairle so that steps can be taken early to remedy issues at the implementation stage rather than at the evaluation stage at the end of the plans implementation. The objectives of the plan are less prescriptive than before and it has tried to avoid a one size fits all approach but its delivery will be dependent on the association's volunteers and staff. In order for a team to win it needs players that are not only skilled, but players that work together as a team rather than as individuals. The delivery of the objectives will require all of us as members of the camogie association to work together to achieve the initiatives and projects set out. Our biggest strength should be **OUR UNITY**. I believe it is achievable but all of us must believe this and work together to ensure that our game is brought to a wider audience and that every girl is given an opportunity to play camogie. The development of Camogie clubs in counties that are not traditional hurling counties and internationally in the UK,

Europe, North America including Canada, Australia and Asia is not only proof of the desire and interest in playing Camogie but the willingness of people to support it. Our volunteers make it possible for everyone in our communities to be welcomed and given the chance to become involved in whatever capacity suits their capabilities. The greatest threat is not from other sports. It is from us not providing every girl as a minimum the opportunity to play at an appropriate level for her ability.

We can have no doubt that this plan provides us with many challenges. The actions set out include supporting our players, player retention, increasing participation, growth and coach development.

There are 4 main targets:

1. On the Pitch
2. In the Public Eye
3. Off the Pitch
4. Strengthening Relationships (Aontas)

In relation to *On the Pitch*, it is incumbent on us as an organisation to ensure that our players can participate in a fixture schedule which maximises their opportunity to play as many games as possible at a level that is competitive, age appropriate and reflects their skill set. There has been an increase in the number of intercounty matches across underage to adult levels since 2009. While this development is to be welcomed it does none-the-less put pressure on the scheduling of games at club level. Given the importance of our clubs and clubs players to the continued well-being and development of camogie and as set out in the Our Sport Our future a review of fixtures planning is scheduled to commence shortly and the Fixtures Review Committee has been set up. This review will provide the opportunity for all interested parties to put forward their views and opinions during the consultation part of the committee's work. I mentioned empowering players earlier, learning the skills of the game is one of the ways of empowering, however we need to recognise that learning how involves playing in games and not just for 5 mins in the odd game. The ultimate purpose of this review is to have meaningful games for all our players so that they have a positive experience of playing camogie. To achieve this we need to find a balance where all our players can compete at the maximum of their ability irrespective of their playing ability or age group.

I am conscious of the need to support our administrator and our volunteers at a time when the demands on them are increasing. *Off the Pitch* will focus on addressing the needs of our clubs and our volunteers looking at initiatives on how best to support our clubs and provinces. This support will involve training and the implementation of strong Governance Structures at National, Provincial,

County and Club levels which are fair and transparent and which clearly defines the role and responsibilities of not just the governing body but all our units and members. Good governance means that the decision making process (rule book) is transparent and recognising that we are all in it together in other words there is collective responsibility.

This brings me to how others view us and how we view ourselves. *In the Public Eye* places a huge emphasis on targeting commercial and broadcast partnerships to raise the profile and awareness of our game. There is a focus on securing two significant commercial partners. The plan targets the promotion of our game through our members and includes positioning our players as spokespersons for our game and for them to be role models for all girls playing and aspiring to play camogie. I do not think we should underestimate the importance for young aspiring players to have role models that they can look up to and it is important that they see that they have a role in our sport which runs deeper than playing our games. This in my view is why our players as role models are important and there is an onus on us to assist our players across all levels so that they can become strong role models.

I believe all our members and units have a responsibility to project our association in the best possible light in order to ensure that commercial partnerships and sponsorship can be achieved at all levels. It may be a cliché but it is none the less true that our strength lies in our unity and it is through working together that we will ultimately all reap the benefits.

Strengthening Relationships (Aontas) may be the 4th target but it is a key target in our continued development. Many members of the wider public think that Camogie is a part of the GAA. There is a significant degree of overlap between the two associations and over the last number of years much work has been undertaken to bring the Gaelic Games Family closer together. This plan will assist in the move towards the One Club Model. In addition it sets out our targets to further enhance and build on this relationship. The plan involves looking at ways closer collaboration with the Gaelic Games Family particularly the GAA can enhance Camogie particularly in the areas of resource pooling, promotion of our game and the continued move towards the one club model.

Additionally this year in collaboration with LGFA a protocol has been agreed in relation to dealing with fixture clashes. This protocol has been published in our 2016 fixture booklet. Both associations have worked together at national level in an effort to avoid national fixture clashes.

So then to summarise the National Development plan will firmly place us on the road to ensuring that every girl has an opportunity to play camogie and all members in our communities find an open door and are welcomed into our clubs as all have a part to play in the development of camogie. It is my belief that while it will take time this plan will ultimately be the catalyst to ensure the game of camogie

fully captures the imagination of the general public and this will be reflected in increased media coverage, increased attendances, increased membership with our players, volunteers and our staff having a central role in the placement of camogie as the sport of choice for female athletes.

I wish to thank Joan O'Flynn, Ard Stiúrthóir and all the staff of the camogie association for their continued work on behalf of camogie.

I wish to thank my fellow Ard Chomhairle members and the members of the various sub-committees who have all worked tirelessly during 2015 and continue to do so in 2016. A number of Ard Chomhairle members are attending their last congress as AC members – to Marie, Mary, Rachel, Geraldine I thank you on behalf of the members of AC and the camogie association for all your dedication, commitment and work and I wish you well and I look forward to working with the newly elected members of AC .

As I look around I see representatives of those who work tirelessly for camogie both in Ireland and overseas, I want to take this occasion to acknowledge your work and I would like to thank each of you for all you do and continue to do, to ensure that our games reaches the widest possible audience - without you the volunteers the camogie association would cease to exist.

My first year as president has been challenging and enjoyable. As a player I had to face challenges that sometimes were difficult and seemed daunting. I believe that the future for Camogie will be challenging, I also believe that if we work together not only can we meet that challenge we can exceed our own expectations and make Camogie a leading female sport in Ireland.

Míle buíochas.