

Paper presented to SGI by Tom Ryan Dg GAA on 7th September 2026

GAA Position on Integration

Significant work has been undertaken over the last number of years to progress integration across Gaelic Games. In particular, the work of the Steering Group on Integration (SGI) has been central to bringing the three Associations to this point, establishing a shared direction and laying important foundations for the future. Considerable time, commitment and collaboration have been invested across the GAA, Camogie Association & LGFA, both nationally and locally, to advance the integration agenda.

As the process moves into its next phase, this may be an appropriate moment to pause, reflect and reframe what we mean by integration and what we ultimately want it to achieve.

At the heart of this should be a focus on equity rather than simply equality. Integration does not necessarily mean treating every part of the association in the same way from the outset. The three Associations come to integration from different starting points, with different structures, resources, capacities and challenges. Recognising those differences is important if integration is to deliver fair and sustainable outcomes.

An equitable approach acknowledges that different supports, resources or approaches may be required in different areas to achieve a genuinely integrated association. The objective should therefore not simply be to create identical arrangements, but to ensure that all parts of Gaelic Games have the opportunity, structures and support required to participate and thrive within an integrated future.

The GAA remains fully committed to the integration process and to working collaboratively with the LGFA and Camogie Association to develop a sustainable model for the future of Gaelic Games

The direction of travel remains clear: the three Associations are working towards a more integrated approach and, ultimately, a unified structure for Gaelic Games. However, integration should be viewed as a process rather than a single organisational change or a fixed end date.

There is an opportunity at this stage to ensure that the next phase of integration is informed by the experience and learning of the work undertaken to date, and that the focus remains on achieving meaningful and equitable outcomes across Gaelic Games.

We now need to build on the impressive work undertaken by the SGI to date and derive a clear, detailed and phased plan over the next 5 years, to achieve it.

o This plan should include defining a devolved operating model, investment strategy, facilities protocol, One Club support plan, communications plan etc.

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- The new association will be called the GAA.
- Common membership fee and process.

- Fair and equitable access to facilities.
- Devolved operating model across all units, recognising that it will evolve over time:
 - o Continued code-specific responsibilities
 - o No automatic finance liability for County Boards
- Integration is phased and sustainable.

Key Messages

- The SGI has done significant work to socialise the concept of integration, and the project is now moving into a new phase that will involve a new group (Implementation Group).
- One GAA remains the priority, with a focus on advancing practical issues. The key message is that we are committed to moving the process forward but cannot commit to a definitive timeline at this stage.