



GPA Annual Report 2024

REPRESENTATION & EQUALITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEMALE SQUAD CHARTER

2024 was the first year of the Squad Charter for LGFA and Camogie players, introduced on the back of their [#UnitedForEquality](#) action in calling for minimum standards. The Charter serves to ensure that ALL players have a suitable training and playing environment, and reimbursement for the expenses they incur through their inter-county activity. Enhanced funding for teams was provided by the LGFA and Camogie Association, with financial support from the GAA, to support the delivery of the Charter. While the GPA continue to advocate for equal treatment female players, the female Charter has established a solid foundation from which to progress in the years ahead.





STUDENT FIRST REPORT LAUNCHED

Research from over 900 student members, showing their experiences and the challenges they face in balancing their academic and sporting lives. The report will shape the GPA's work to improve supports for student members in the coming years.

Key findings included:

- 63% regularly overwhelmed by commitments
- 65% don't have time for a part-time job
- 32% are experiencing serious financial difficulty

Recommendations included:

- Mitigate the impact of sport on academic studies
- Provide greater support to student members
- Safeguard members' experiences of playing third-level Gaelic Games

GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING

The GPA along with the GAA / LGFA / Camogie Association oversee Government Grant funding for inter-county players through the Inter-county Steering Group (ISG) committee. The GPA administered €3m of Government Grant funding for 2,421 male players and supported the administration of €2.6m to female players and teams. In 2024, the GPA also commissioned independent research by Indecon Economic Consultants into the growth in economic impact by Inter-county players and level of recognition and investment from the state. This research was released in Q1 of 2025 and sets the agenda for discussions of the future direction of the funding scheme.



REGIONAL REPS WORKSHOPS

The GPA engaged in face to face workshops with over 110 squad reps in 6 regional venues mid-season for direct feedback on the challenges and priorities for players.



GPA AGM 2024

The GPA's Annual General Meeting was hosted remotely with fantastic engagement.

Key highlights from the AGM included:

- 154 players in attendance
- 81% of squads represented
- Key motions passed on introduction of a Legacy Care medical support programme, LGFA player injury enhancements, engagement on Camogie sports, and fixtures notifications
- Niall Morgan and Aisling Maher were appointed as new Co-Chairs of the NEC
- Shane O'Donnell, Maria Curley, Dearbhla Magee and Rory O'Connor added to the NEC





GLOBAL PLAYERS MOVEMENT

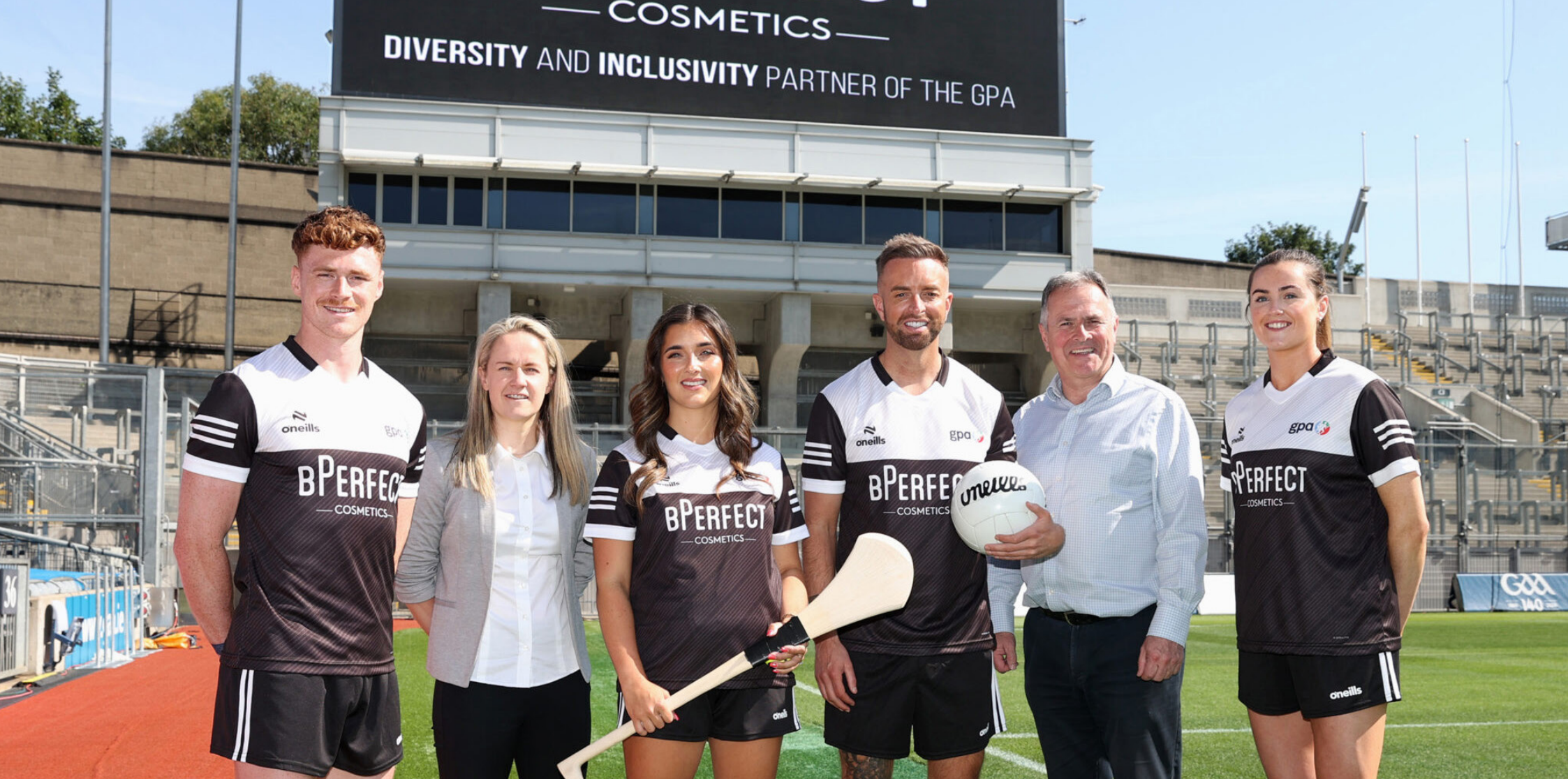
The GPA continues to play an active role in the World Players Association (WPA) and European Athletes and Players Association (EAPA).

- Supported the establishment of WPA office in Dublin
- Presented to the WPA Roar Room Conference on Gender Equality about the Drive for Gender Equality in Gaelic Games
- Attended the WPA conference in Arizona
- Board representation on the EAPA and attendance at the Annual General Assembly
- Partners to EAPA Erasmus Plus project on Collective Bargaining Agreements (AGREE)



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IRISH ATHLETES ALLIANCE

Bringing together the GPA, RPI, PFAI and Irish Jockeys Association with the aim to serve as a voice and as a catalyst for positive change within Ireland's high-performance sporting community. In its' first year, the Alliance called for standardised cardiac screening across all sports and took a united stance in support of players affected by abuse.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

BPerfect were welcomed onboard as the GPA's Diversity & Inclusion Partner in 2024, helping to support Player Development Programmes that benefit amateur players in local communities like personal coaching, counselling support & educational scholarships.

The GPA also hosted our annual Pride Brunch in early June to mark the start of Pride month, with over 40 GPA members and guests in attendance.

PLAYER AWARDS

- PwC GAA / GPA Players of the Month in each of the 4 codes were shortlisted by journalists and the winner selected by their peers. The 4 winners were invited to a monthly presentation in PwC offices, joined by the GPA and GAA.
- PwC GAA / GPA All Star Awards were hosted in a star-studded night, televised live from the RDS arena. Congratulation to all of the winners, and in particular Shane O'Donnell (Hurling) and Paul Conroy (Football), for taking home the Player of the Year awards.
- PwC GPA / Camogie Players of the Year were presented on the night of the Camogie All-Stars. Fantastic recognition to all of the All-Star recipients, with Laura Hayes (Senior), Danielle



Morrissey (Intermediate) and Clodagh Tynan (Junior) taking home each of the individual top honours.

- Champion 15 Awards: Top players from the Tailteann Cup and the Lory Meagher, Christy Ring, Nicky Rackard and Joe McDonagh Cups were recognised.
- Legends Lunches – the GPA again hosted two events to bring together 1,000 past players from across the decades, honour previous All-Ireland winning teams, and present a player from each code with a Lifetime Achievement Award to recognise the true legends. Kay Ryder and Dr Con Murphy were honoured at the Hurling / Camogie event while Eugene 'Nudie' Hughes and Sue Ramsbottom were presented at the Football event.

COMMITTEES

The GPA were represented by CEO Tom Parsons on the GAA's Amateur Status Committee looking at the future direction of our games. The work of the committee has been detailed and although challenging in the breadth of scope, is building consensus on a framework that will help to identify a sustainable model for our games. The GPA's role is to ensure the voice of players is central to decision making and that player welfare priorities are a key consideration.

The GPA are also represented on the GAA's finance committee (Darach Honan) and the GAA's Medical, Scientific and Welfare Committee (Colm Begley).

The GPA had consistent engagement with the Football Review Committee throughout 2024, representing players opinions and feedback in the development of the new rules for men's football.



NGB ENGAGEMENT

The GPA and GAA meet formally on a monthly basis through the work of the Joint Review Committee (JRC) which oversees the implementation of the jointly agreed GAA-GPA protocol. This agreement governs the player charter, player development funding, joint commercial work, player welfare initiatives and more, in recognition of the value generated by players for Gaelic games. The last protocol agreement ran out at the end of 2024 with negotiations continuing towards a renewed deal.

The GPA also worked on many other initiatives with the GAA, including a joint statement on Gaza and increased investment in the holiday fund for the male All-Ireland finalists.

The GPA were represented at the GAA and LGFA Congresses, and had a welcome opportunity to present to Camogie Congress on the work of the GPA in support of Camogie players.



BARNARDO'S NAMED AS GPA'S OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER FOR 2024

The GPA selected Barnardo's as their official charity partner for 2024, supporting Barnardo's events on the ground with players attending events

PLANT THE PLANET GAMES

A collaboration with Warriors for Humanity and Self Help Africa, with the goal of planting a million trees to combat climate change and raise awareness. The event saw 33 inter-county GAA players travel to Kenya to showcase Gaelic games and participate in tree planting activities.

