



GPA Annual Report 2025

# CO-CHAIR'S ADDRESS

This report reflects a year in which our members' collective voice played a defining role in shaping key developments in Gaelic games. Throughout 2025, players across all counties and codes stood together, engaged constructively, and ensured that the issues that matter most to them were clearly heard and acted upon.

At the heart of the Gaelic Players Association is a commitment to representing our members. This report outlines how that commitment was delivered over the past year through advocacy, engagement, and support across all aspects of the player experience. From welfare and development programmes supporting thousands of inter-county players, to representation at the highest levels of decision-making, the work captured in these pages is driven by, and for, our members.

Across inter-county squads, players demonstrated the strength that comes from unity. When members speak collectively, they bring clarity and influence to the conversations that shape their games. In 2025, we saw that influence translate into positive outcomes for players and our games.

A defining example of this was the skorts issue in camogie. What began as a question of choice and comfort became a powerful expression of member voice. Players articulated clearly what they needed and why it mattered. Their unity ensured the issue could not be overlooked and that it was addressed with the seriousness it deserved.

As an association, our role was to ensure that members were represented fully and effectively throughout that process. This was about more than playing attire. It was about respect, equality, and the right of players to have a say in matters that directly affect them. The outcome marked an important moment in reinforcing that principle.

It is important to acknowledge the delegates at the Camogie Association's Special Congress who heard players and voted for change.

Similarly, the issue of seeding in the Munster Football Championship highlighted the importance of players being actively involved in decisions that shape their competitions. Members made it clear that fairness, transparency, and sporting integrity must underpin any changes to competition structures.

Through structured engagement and advocacy, players ensured their perspectives were part of the conversation. This demonstrated not only the importance of consultation, but also the value of players as informed and constructive contributors to the evolution of our games. Again in this case, the role played by Munster GAA in listening to, and hearing, players must be acknowledged and respected.

These examples reflect a broader theme throughout 2025. Players expect to be listened to and heard, and to have their experiences inform decisions. The GPA continues to strengthen the structures that make this possible, ensuring that member voice is consistently represented across all levels of governance. Indeed, one of the major pillars of our recently published playbook centres on the GPA becoming an even stronger player led movement.

Beyond advocacy, this report also outlines the continued development of supports for our members. Players are balancing the demands of elite sport with careers, education, and personal lives. Supporting them in that balance through wellbeing initiatives, education programmes, and career supports delivered nationwide remains central to our work. Looking ahead, you have been clear on one key priority: the delivery of integration across our games. For players, this is a commitment that directly impacts recognition, opportunity and investment as we strive for equality within Gaelic games.

Members have engaged meaningfully in shaping what integration should look like, and there is a strong expectation that this will now be delivered. The 2027 timeline provides clarity and certainty, and it is important that this commitment is honoured.

Let us make this point very clear. Integration represents the biggest opportunity for positive change in the history of Gaelic games. The GPA will continue to represent and advocate for our members in ensuring that this opportunity is grasped.

We would like to thank all of our members for their continued engagement and trust throughout the year. It is important too to thank CEO Tom Parsons and the GPA staff and also the GPA Board of Directors led by Chair Professor Brian MacCraith for their commitment on behalf of inter-county players.

This report reflects what can be achieved when players come together with a shared purpose, and we encourage all members to engage with its contents to see the full scope of the work delivered to allow you to be your best on and off the field of play.



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