



Irish Language and Culture

Gaeilge agus Cultúr

CLUB MAITH TOOLKIT



INTREOIR / INTRODUCTION

Tá dualgas ar leith ar an Chumann Lúthchleas Gael ó thaobh cothú na Gaeilge de. Tá se leagtha síos sa Treoir Oifigiúil go bhfuil an teanga agus cultúr na hÉireann araon ag croílár ghnó an CLG. Ciallaíonn sé sin go bhfuil gá leo ar chlár gnó an chlub chomh maith. Is féidir leo bheith i measc na ngnéithe is taitneamhaí de ghníomhaíochtaí an Chlub, mar go mbeidh tú in ann baill nua nach n-imríonn a mhealladh isteach agus deis agat bheith cruthaitheach sna rudaí a dhéantar.

The opening lines of the GAA's Official Guide make it clear that the active support of the Irish language and culture are central to the GAA's business. That means they have to be a part of our Club's business. They can also be among the most inclusive and enjoyable aspects of club activity, as you bring in new non-playing members and you can be creative in what you do.

SCÓR

Every GAA Club should take part in Scór. No other sporting or cultural body has anything like Scór, a framework which allows local people to take part in activity right across the cultural spectrum and within a clear community based and amateur context. Participants have the added benefit of moving on to represent their Club and/or County and Province.

Scór is made up of eight competitions:

1. Rince Foirne: céilí or figure dancing
2. Amhránaíocht Aonair: solo singing
3. Ceol Uirlise: instrumental music
4. Aithriseoireacht/scéalaíocht: recitation/storytelling
5. Grúpa Bailéid: ballad group
6. Tráth na gCeisteanna: question time
7. Léiriú: (dramatic presentation)
8. Rince Seit: set dancing

Every Club should have local people capable of taking part in several Scór competitions. Good practice tells us:

- Clubs should appoint a Cultural Officer whose key role will be to organise Scór in the Club.
- Clubs should liaise closely with the County GAA Cultural Officer.
- Other interested people from outside the Club, particularly parents, should be involved.
- Scór should be unashamedly promoted locally: modern TV successes show us how popular it has become for young people in particular to perform on stage.
- If starting from scratch, it is often best to begin by entering Scór na nÓg, i.e. for under-16s.
- Collaboration with local schools is vital.
- Strong partnerships should be developed with other local activities, e.g. dancing classes and drama Clubs.
- Local 'in-club' Scór heats can help create momentum and tend to be very popular locally.
- Scór performers representing the Club should be dressed in branded Club gear.
- Scór competitors should be cherished and celebrated, e.g. asked to provide entertainment at Club events.

AN GHAELIGE

There are a number of simple ways in which GAA Clubs can help foster Irish at the local level:

- Appoint an Oifigeach Gaeilge/ Language Officer.
- Attend Ulster GAA's Officer Training events and promotional initiatives.
- Make contact with the county and provincial Irish Language Officers for support.
- Use the Irish version of the Club name in prominent places, e.g. on letterheads, kitbags, playing gear, tickets, and scoreboards.
- Put up Irish/bilingual signs inside and outside Club premises.
- Use bilingual agendas at meetings as provided by Ulster GAA.
- Make sure at least some Irish is used at Club events.
- Host Irish language classes.
- Offer Gaeltacht scholarships to local children.
- Host a children's summer camp which encompasses Gaelic sports, Irish and culture.
- Register with The Joe McDonagh Foundation.
- Take part in Seachtain na Gaeilge / Irish language Week in early March each year.
- Encourage adult members to go to Cúrsa Shéamuis de Faoite, Comhairle Uladh's Irish course in Downings, Dún na nGall, each July.
- Collaborate and network with other local Clubs and the county GAA committee in language initiatives.
- Develop partnerships with local language organisations.

CULTÚR AGUS OIDHREACTH: CEOL, AMHRÁNAÍOCHT, DAMHSA AGUS DRÁMA – MUSIC, SONG, DANCE AND DRAMA

- Appoint a Club Cultural Officer
- Host at least one dedicated Irish cultural event each year, e.g. tied in with St Patrick's Day.
- Make sure all Club events have an Irish cultural dimension, e.g. appropriate rounds in quizzes and entertainment at Club functions (ideally using Club Scór participants)
- Include appropriate elements in the décor of Club premises. n Build a Celtic art component into any Club new-build project.
- Work closely with local schools and teachers.
- Organise or facilitate others to organise Irish dancing and/or music classes.
- Collaborate with local GAA Clubs and the County Committee as appropriate.
- Work in partnership with other local cultural organisations

STAIR AGUS CARTLANNA AN CHLUB / CLUB HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

- Research and promote the person/event/ grouping after which the Club is named.
- Hold an annual 'founders' day', an event to celebrate the forming of the Club.
- Revisit past Club achievements in publications such as newsletters. n Include a summary Club history on the Club website.
- Build up a safe, protected archive of Club minute-books, AGM reports, Club publications, etc.
- Make digital copies of old minute-books, documents and photographs and consider donating the originals to a local or provincial archive for safekeeping.
- Publish a new or update any previous Club history, ideally to mark a landmark Club or GAA event.
- Keep press cuttings of significant Club games and events.

- Record the experiences and motivation of Club founders and key personnel.
- Organise celebratory events or reunions to mark milestone achievements of your Club.
- Keep photographic records of Club teams, committees, projects and events.
- Retain Club jerseys and other merchandise.
- Contribute to similar County GAA initiatives.

OIDHREACTH ÁITIÚIL / LOCAL HERITAGE

- Be clear about the extent of the Club's catchment area.
- Promote and use local place-names, particularly townlands.
- Contribute to local histories.
- Organise, contribute to, and/or take part in talks/lectures/events focusing on local heritage.