

Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club Handbook



20161

CONTENTS:

Mission	3
Board	3
Committees	4
Communications	5
Treasury	6
AGM	6
Membership	6
Waivers	6
City League rules & guidelines	7—8
Captains	9
Competition Committee	9
Sportsmanship	9
Volunteering	9
Suspensions	9
History	10
Crest and Colors	10
NGAC Bylaws	11—16

MISSION

The Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club (NGAC) promotes Irish sports and culture in Middle Tennessee through:

- Teaching the history and game play of the traditional sports of Ireland: hurling, camogie, and Gaelic football
- Holding regular intra-club matches
- Competing in regional and national tournaments organized by United States Gaelic Athletic Clubs and the North American County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association
- Organizing events to promote traditional Irish cultural including: sports and music
- Participating in and promoting traditional Irish sports in area schools and universities

BOARD (2014)

Chairman

John Watson

nashvillegac@gmail.com

(314) 308-5949

Vice Chairman

Ryan Buckley

Secretary

Molly Bombardi-Mount

Treasurer

Brendan Reynolds

Registrar

Liam Barry

Public Relations Officer

Jennifer Barry

Member at Large

Aaron Joley

COMMITTEES

The board may create committees, as needed, such as fundraising, recruitment and retention, volunteers, fields and equipment procurement, collegiate liaisons etc. The board chair appoints all committee chairs.

Current committee chairs

Fields and equipment:

Camogie:

Molly Buckley

Molly Bombardi-Mount

Recruitment and Retention:

Fields and Equipment:

Fundraising & Sponsorship:

Collegiate Liaisons:

Corbett Ouellette (MTSU)

Grant Gill (Belmont)

Training:

Hurling

John Watson

Camogie

Anji Wall

COMMUNICATIONS

The club communicates internally through:

- Member's Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/611777535543181/>
- Google group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/nashvillegac>

Members should join one or both. You must have a Facebook account to see messages there. The Google group option allows for messages to be delivered directly to your email inbox.

Text alerts: Members may opt in to receive alerts. This is a one-way text messaging system. Messaging and data rates apply.

To opt in:

send a text message to: 81010
With the message: @hurling

The club communicates externally through:

Web: www.nashvillegac.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NashvilleGAC>

Twitter: @NashvilleGAC

TREASURY

Income: Funds are raised through member dues, sponsorships, and occasional fundraising activities. 2015 membership dues are \$20.00. The Board will also consider hardship cases, and reserves the right to waive dues.

League dues are \$40.00 per season (spring and fall). Fulltime student's league dues are \$20.00 per season.

The club is always seeking external funding sources. If you have ideas for sponsors or fundraising, please speak with a member of the Board

Expenses: Club funds pay for fields, registration fees, insurance, equipment, promotional materials, and city league jerseys. Contact the Treasurer if you would like a more detailed accounting of the treasury.

The Treasurer presents a financial report at the Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

An annual meeting of the membership shall be held in the month of December, the specific date, time, and location will be determined by the board of directors. At the AGM the membership shall elect officers, receive reports on the activities of the NGAC, and set the direction for the coming year

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all genders over the age of 18. Membership is renewed on an annual basis and shall remain active until the last day in December of the year of registration. To be a member in good standing, one must: a. file a completed registration form and signed waiver with the Registrar; b. pay the annual membership fees as set by the board (2014 membership fees: \$20.00). c. have not been suspended from participation in the club.

WAIVERS

Each club member must sign a waiver before participating in any practice or competition. Contact the club Registrar to complete a waiver.

NASHVILLE GAC CITY HURLING LEAGUE

The NGAC hurling league will consist of 3 teams. All members in good standing are eligible to play, but must register separately for league play.

Game length: Games will be 30 minutes in length (two 15 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime). *When weather conditions mandate, particularly in excessive heat, the Board will notify the Captains that games will be played with 7 minute quarters. A five-minute break for water and cooling down will occur at each break in play.*

The referee keeps the game clock.

League structure: Each of the 3 teams will play twice each day, competing against each of the other two teams. Total playing time for each team will be 60 minutes (2 games lasting 30 minutes each). There will be a 10-minute break between games.

Players on field: Each team can field as many as 13 or as few as 7 players for each game. The Captains will agree upon the number of player on the field prior to each game. If a team is unable to field 7 players, they may, upon agreement with the opposing team's captain: a. field as few as 6 players, or b. field agreed upon players from another team. A team that is unable to field 6 players forfeits the match. However, if the captains from all three teams agree, teams may play with fewer than 6 players in a "points only" match, forgoing a goalie in favor of outfield players.

Substitutions: An unlimited number of substitutions may take place during the match, however teams must substitute the same number of players during a given substitution. If a team does not have subs, the opposing team can substitute at 10-minute intervals. Substitutions can only be made when the ball goes out of play over the end line. The referee must be notified that a substitution is taking place.

Playing time: All players are required to play at least half of each match. Exceptions are made for injury, illness, or red card infractions. It is the captain's responsibility to ensure that players play for the required amount of time.

Officials: The inactive team will provide 2 line judges, 1 referee, and 4 goal umpires. A team that fails to provide all officials will be penalized 1 point in the official league standings.

The referee is the primary match official. Games are officiated in accordance with the

official playing rules of hurling (*see “rules of play”*). The referee’s decision on any question of fact is final.

Season Structure: The hurling league will last 8 weeks, culminating in a championship match between the two top teams. A win = 3 points; a tie = 1 point, and a loss = 0 points. In the case of a tie in total points at the end of the season, the top two teams will be determined first by head-to-head competition, then by goal + points differential, and then by total goal + points scored.

Suspensions: Players receiving a “straight red card” are banned for 1 game. Players who accumulate 4 total yellow cards are banned for 1 game. Appeals of suspensions are made in writing to the competition committee.

Rules of play: With the exception of adjustments made to accommodate the local league, the official GAA playing rules of hurling apply. Each player should become familiar with the rules, and should seek clarification on any rule they do not fully understand.

Female players play within the following camogie rules: 1. They may score from the hand. 2. If they are playing in goal, puck-outs after scores may be taken from the 20-meter line. 3. When the ball is played over the end line by the defending team a free will be taken from the 45 meter line.

Most current rules on the GAA site are located here:

<http://www.gaa.ie/about-the-gaa/our-games/hurling/rules/>

The specific adjustments affect only the “Rules of Specification,” mainly the size of the field of play, the number of players, substitutions, and time. These adjustments are noted above.

Postponement of games

At the Boards discretion, games may be postponed or suspended. Reasons for this action include inclement weather, unsuitable playing or field conditions, or at the request of the field superintendent. In the case of postponement or suspension, every effort will be made to reschedule the games.

Forfeiture of games

A team that is unable to field the required number of players forfeits the game. Forfeitures count as a loss and earn the forfeiting team 0 points.

Minimum number of game

Players must play in a minimum of 2 regular season weekends in order to be permitted to compete in the Championship match.

CAPTAINS

City League Captains: The Board selects City league captains. Captains are responsible for drafting players, organizing their teams, communicating with players, ensuring that players are fulfilling referee and judging requirements, communicating with officials, serving on the competition committee, communicating with other captains, and working with the board to ensure a safe, fun, and successful city league. All members in good standing are eligible to be team captains. Captains should be in attendance at all games. When circumstances prevent attendance, the captain should appoint a substitute captain. As representatives of the club, captains should exemplify the club ideals of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and volunteerism.

Travel Team Captains: the trainers select Travel team captains.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee is made up of the captains of all active teams and is chaired by the Vice Chair of the club. The committee is responsible for scheduling referees. The committee may be called upon to discuss any aspect of league play including: numbers of players, assigning new players to teams, match postponement or suspension, and any alterations to the rules. The committee will be called upon to oversee red card appeals (see *Red Cards*). Each member has an equal vote, unless the dispute involves a player on the team of which the member is captain. In that case, the captain will abstain from voting. Ties will be brought to the Board for consideration and a vote.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The Nashville GAC prizes sportsmanship above all else. Players should treat teammates, opponents, and officials with respect. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. The Board reserves the right to suspend players for egregious or consistent displays of poor sportsmanship.

VOLUNTEERING

The club depends on volunteers. There are opportunities to volunteer on game days and through other club activities in the community. All players should give their time when able to ensure the success of the club. Thank you for your service.

SUSPENSIONS

Players can be suspended for in game action (red cards or accumulated yellow cards) or for cynical behavior at club practices or events. The Board makes decisions regarding suspension. Appeals are made to the competition committee for game related suspensions and to the Board for non-game related suspensions.

HISTORY

Formed to promote the Irish sports: hurling, Gaelic football, and camogie in Nashville, TN., the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club held its inaugural event, an introduction to hurling, on April 20, 2013. The club was founded by John “Johnny sticks” Watson and Anji Wall. The husband and wife duo, and former St. Louis GAC club mates, relocated to Nashville in 2011, and brought with them a passion for Gaelic games.

The Nashville GAC is modeled after other American city clubs, which have had great success in promoting and playing Irish sports in recent years. The Milwaukee hurling club, the Indianapolis GAA, and the St. Louis Gaelic Athletic Club have been particularly influential, and like those clubs, the Nashville GAC welcomes men and women over the age of 18 to play in coed, competitive matches. Experienced players are certainly welcome, but new players are strongly encouraged to come out, learn about the games, and join in the fun.

OUR CREST AND COLORS

Club members Grant Gill and Timothy Ryan Buckley designed the club's crest. A guitar silhouette provides the foundation, a nod to our home city's music roots. At the center, the Tennessee tri-star dominates, accompanied by the Parthenon in Centennial Park, where the club recruits every Thursday evening. Crossed hurleys pay homage to the club's Gaelic roots. A banner emblazoned with the city's Irish name, Baile Ceol—translated Music City—and the fleur de lis of our founders' former club in St. Louis completes the crest.

The club colors, green and gold, are a tribute to the Blackrock National Hurling Club in Cork, Ireland. The "Rockies," as they are called, are a club with which club co-founder Anji Wall's family has been involved with for many years.

Bylaws of the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club

Article I: Identification

1.1 *Name:* The name of the organization shall be The Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club (Hereinafter referred to as the NGAC. It shall be a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

1.2 *Purpose:* The NGAC is organized to promote Irish sports and culture in Middle Tennessee Through:

- Teaching the history and game play of the traditional sports of Ireland: hurling, camogie, and Gaelic football
- Holding regular intra-club matches
- Competing in regional and national tournaments organized by United States Gaelic Athletic Clubs and the North American County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Organization
- Organizing events to promote traditional Irish cultural including: sports and music
- Participating in and promoting traditional Irish sports in area schools and universities

1.3 *Principle office address:* The post office address is 4600 Idaho Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209 and the resident agent in charge of said office is John Watson 4600 Idaho Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209 (2013-Present)

1.4 *Fiscal Year:* The fiscal year of the NACB shall commence on the first day of January each year and shall end on the last day of December of same year, unless an alternate date is designated by the State of Tennessee or other external auditing agency.

Article II: Membership

2.1 *Eligibility for membership:* Membership is open to all genders aged 18 and up.

2.2 *Securing membership:* Membership is secured by submitting a legal name (first and last) and the last 4 digits of: a. Driver's license, b. Passport, or c. other approved government issued photo ID card, and by paying annual dues. Members having met these criteria are considered "in good standing."

2.3 *Cost of membership:* The board of directors shall set the annual dues for members pursuant to the provisions outlined in Article IV of these bylaws.

2.4 *Rights and privileges of members in good standing:*

- Members may speak, make motions, and vote in general meetings.
- Members may serve as a club officer.
- Members are eligible to participate in functions and events organized by the club or at which the club participates.

2.5 Resignation and termination: A member may resign by filing a written resignation with the registrar. Resignation shall not relieve a member of unpaid dues, or other charges previously accrued. A member can have their membership terminated by a majority vote of the membership.

2.6 Non-voting membership: The Board shall have the authority to establish and define criteria for non-voting membership categories.

Article III: Meeting of Members

3.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM): An annual meeting of the membership shall be held in the month of December, the specific date, time, and location will be determined by the board of directors. At the AGM the membership shall elect officers, receive reports on the activities of the NGAC, and set the direction for the coming year.

3.2 Special meetings: Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, a simple majority of the Board of Directors, or by petition by 25% of the voting membership.

3.3 Notice of meetings: Notice of meetings shall be delivered to the membership via email, or at a members request any other form of printed communication, no less than 10 days prior to the meeting.

3.4 Quorum: The members present at any properly announced meeting constitutes a quorum.

3.4 Voting: Any member in good standing is eligible is eligible to vote. Members must be present to vote. All issues to be voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of those present. Members may submit a request for a proxy vote to the Board of Directors; the Board will determine the eligibility of the proxy vote by a majority vote of the Board.

Article IV: The Board of Directors

4.1 Board role, size, and compensation: The Board is responsible for the overall direction and governance of the NGAC. The Board shall consist of 7 members: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Public Relations Officer, and Member at Large. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve on the Board. The Board receives no compensation.

4.2 Terms: All board members serve two-year terms, and are eligible for re-election.

4.3 *Annual Meeting:* The Board shall meet within one month following the Annual General Meeting. This meeting serves to complete the business of the previous year and set the direction for the coming year. Outgoing board members shall attend this meeting to aid in the transition to the new board.

4.4 *Other Meetings:* Other meetings of the board can be called at the request of the Chairman or two other board members. Written notice of these meetings shall be provided to members of the board no fewer than 10 days preceding the meeting.

4.5 *Attendance at Board Meetings by Members in Good Standing:* Members in good standing have the right to request to attend board meetings. Requests must be made in writing, and the granting of such requests is at the discretion of a majority of the board.

4.6 *Election of the Board:* The board is elected by the NGAC membership at the Annual General Meeting. Votes shall be cast through written ballot, and simple majority of those present elect board members. The Secretary solicits nominations during a 2-week nomination period, which opens 3 weeks prior and closes 1 week prior to the Annual General Meeting.

4.7 *Quorum:* The presence of 60% of the board at any board meeting constitutes a quorum.

4.8 *Vacancies:* In the case of permanent vacancies due to resignation or death, the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement officer. This officer shall serve until the next election of officers.

Article V: The Officers

5.1 There shall be 6 officers: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Public Relations Officer, and Member at Large.

5.2 *Chairman:* The Chairman shall convene regular board meetings, shall preside over meetings. The chairman sets the agenda for the board meetings, special meetings, and Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Chairman can arrange for one of the other officers to preside over meetings in the Chairman's absence.

5.3 *Vice Chairman:* The Vice Chairman is responsible for assisting the Chairman with the operations of the club, and shall serve in the Chairman's place in the case of the absence of the Chairman. The Vice Chairman oversees any committees created by the board, and acts as liaison between committee chairs and the Board.

5.4 *Secretary:* The Secretary is responsible for keeping records of board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all board meetings, sending out meeting

announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each board member, and assuring that corporate records are maintained. The secretary shall be the primary communications liaison between the Southeastern Divisional Board, other Divisional Boards, the North American County Board and the Nashville GAC.

5.5 Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate records of the account. The Treasurer is the legal custodian of the moneys or other valued assets of the NGAC. The Treasurer shall file or cause to be filed any State or Federal tax filings. Any moneys collected by the club shall be deposited immediately into an FDIC insured bank account. The Treasurer shall give a report of the fiscal status of the club at board meetings, and present an annual report to the membership at the AGM.

5.6 Registrar: The Registrar shall be responsible for keeping accurate, up to date registration records of the NGAC membership. The Registrar is responsible for registering members annually, and along with the Treasurer collecting annual dues. The Registrar is responsible for submitting the NGAC registration with the Southeastern Division Board of the North American County Board, and insuring that the NGAC in good standing with the Gaelic Athletic Association. The Registrar is responsible for processing transfers of players from other clubs and registering Sanctioned players prior to the annual deadlines set out by the North American County Board. The Registrar shall submit rosters of NGAC team members at tournaments according to each tournament's rules and procedures.

5.7 Public Relations Officer (PRO): The Public Relations Officer is primarily responsible for NGAC communication and relations with other clubs and the media. They also oversee the club's marketing, recruitment, and promotional efforts.

5.8 Member at Large: The member at large represents the member's interest on the board. They are responsible for duties as assigned by the chair.

Article VI: Committees

6.1 Committee formation: The board may create committees as needed, such as fundraising, recruitment and retention, volunteers, fields and equipment procurement, collegiate liaisons etc. The board chair appoints all committee chairs.

6.2 Finance Committee: The treasurer is the chair of the Finance Committee, which includes two other board members, the chairman and the registrar. The Finance Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing fiscal procedures, fundraising plans, and the annual. The board must approve the budget and all expenditures must be within budget. The board must approve any major change in the budget. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. Annual reports are required to be submitted to the board showing income, expenditures, and pending income. The financial records of the organization are public information and shall be made available to the membership, board members, and the public.

6.3 *Recruitment Committee*: The PRO is the Chair of the recruitment committee. The committee is responsible for overseeing the clubs marketing, recruitment, and promotional efforts.

6.4 *Fields and equipment committee*: The board appoints the F&E committee. This committee is responsible for procuring equipment, locating and securing permits for fields, and ensuring that fields are prepared for training and matches. The committee reports to the Vice Chairman of the Board.

6.5 *Collegiate Liaison Committee*: The Collegiate Liaisons are appointed by the board. They are responsible for NGAC recruitment efforts and program development at local schools and colleges. The committee reports to the Vice Chairman of the Board.

6.6 *Camogie Committee*: The Camogie committee is responsible for camogie games development. The committee organizes local camogie training, scrimmages, and games. The committee chair is responsible for communication with other clubs regarding camogie competitions. The committee reports to the Vice Chairman of the Board.

Article VII: Corporate Books

7.1 *Keeping and Place of Keeping*: The board shall maintain the corporate books of the NGAC. The Secretary is directly responsible for ensuring books are up to date and accurate. The corporate books shall include the articles of incorporation, bylaws, meeting minutes, and annual reports. The books shall be held by the Secretary within the State of Tennessee or in a location determined by the board by resolution

7.2 *Member Registry*: The NGAC Registrar is responsible for maintaining the member registry in accordance Article 2.2 of these bylaws and the standards set by the North American County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Article VII: Bylaws of the North American County Board of the United States Gaelic Athletic Association

7.1 *Affiliation with the USGAA & NACB*: Whereas the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club is a member of the North American County Board of the United States Gaelic Athletic Association, The NGAC defers to the national organization on matters related to participation in events organized or sanctioned by the USGAA and NACB.

Article VIII: Amendments

8.1 *Amendments*: These bylaws may be amended when necessary by two-thirds majority of the board of directors. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Secretary to be sent out with regular board announcements.

