

# Media Kit



*GAA Rounders is one of the four core codes of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), uniquely embedded in the organisation since the original 1884 Charter*



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**Media Contact** Chiara Trench  
communications.rounders@gaa.ie | (086) 8984580



# Overview

## What is GAA Rounders?



**GAA Rounders** is one of the four core codes of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), uniquely embedded in the organisation since the original 1884 Charter. It is a bat-and-ball sport played across Ireland, combining athletic skill, teamwork, and fast-paced action.

Long before 1884, various bat-and-ball games were played across Ireland, passed down through generations to become what we now recognise as Rounders.

**It's inclusion in the founding GAA Charter is a testament to the sport's deep roots in Irish cultural life and history.**

The sport has often served as a symbol of resilience. During the Civil War, for instance, imprisoned women in Kilmainham Gaol famously played Rounders in the Stonebreaker's Yard using a chair leg for a bat and a ball made of rags.

The modern revival of the game began in the 1950s, led by Peadar Ó'Tuataín in Derry. Since then, the organisation has experienced significant expansion. By the end of 2025, the association had grown to 67 affiliated clubs nationwide, spanning 18 of the 32 counties.

Our Unique Selling Point

**GAA Rounders is distinguished by its ability to bring men and women together on the same team.** We prioritise equal opportunities, mutual respect, and a shared pride in the club jersey. Today's game is social, fast-paced, and fiercely competitive, yet its soul remains unchanged – it is a living link between the past, present, and future of the GAA.

*GAA Rounders is one of the very few sports in the world where men and women compete together for national titles at elite level – and it's been doing so for decades.*

- Rounders demonstrates genuine sporting equality, not symbolic inclusion
  - Mixed competition is normalised, not highlighted as unusual within the sport
  - Success depends on skill, tactics, and teamwork, not brute strength
- It offers a global example of how elite mixed sport can work

# Overview

## How the Game & Season Work



### The Structure of Rounders

GAA Rounders is organised into three competitive grades across Men's, Women's and Mixed championships:

#### Senior Championships

- 8 teams in each of:
- Senior Men
- Senior Women
- Senior Mixed

This is the elite level of club Rounders in Ireland.

#### Intermediate Championships

- 8 teams in each of:
- Intermediate Men
- Intermediate Women
- Intermediate Mixed

Intermediate grade provides a competitive pathway between Junior and Senior levels.

#### Junior Championships

- 40+ teams compete annually across:
- Junior Men
- Junior Women
- Junior Mixed
- Junior competitions represent the largest and fastest-growing section of the sport nationwide.



### Competition Structure at a glance

GAA Rounders is played at:

- Senior
- Intermediate
- Junior

Championships are held in:

- Men's
- Women's
- Mixed

*The season culminates in the All-Ireland Championships, where clubs from all four provinces compete for national titles.*



# Overview

## How the Game & Season Work



### Group Format & Progression

- Championships begin with group stages, starting in mid-April.
- Teams are drawn into groups of eight at each grade.
- Groups are cross-provincial, meaning clubs are not grouped solely by geography.

For example, teams from Mayo may be grouped with clubs from Cavan, Dublin, Wexford, and other counties.

*This format promotes competitive balance, and avoids repetitive local fixtures. It also encourages national competition and player development*

### Qualification

- The top four teams in a group qualify for the All-Ireland Semi-Finals.
- Semi-final winners advance to the All-Ireland Finals.

### The Championship Season Timeline

- Mid-April: Group stages commence nationwide
- Summer months: Group matches and knockout rounds
- September: All-Ireland Finals across Men's, Women's and Mixed championships
- November: The season concludes with the GAA Rounders All-Stars Awards, recognising the top players, clubs, and contributors of the year

### Match Format (Quick Explainer)

- Teams consist of 9 players
- Matches are typically played over five innings, senior finals 7.
- Teams score rounds by striking the ball and completing a full circuit of the bases
- Games are fast-paced, spectator-friendly, and generally completed within a clear, broadcast-friendly timeframe



# Overview



## How the Game & Season Work

### Governance & Organisation

- Governed nationally by GAA Rounders operating under the umbrella of the GAA
- Competitions are organised annually for Men, Women, and Mixed teams across Senior, Intermediate and Junior Grades.
- The season culminates in the All-Ireland Championships, where clubs from all four provinces compete for national titles.

### The Game at a Glance

- Teams consist of 9 players with matches typically lasting five innings
- The objective is to score rounds by striking the ball and completing circuits of the bases
- Key skills include batting, fielding, throwing, catching, speed, and tactical awareness
- The game is fast-moving, spectator-friendly, and accessible for all ages.

### Honours & Recognition

- All-Ireland Titles (Senior, Intermediate, Junior)
- All-Stars Awards for elite players
- Club of the Year (Provincial & National)
- Teams of the Year
- President's Award

These honours showcase the highest standards within the sport.

### Community & Values

GAA Rounders reflects the core GAA values of:  
Community | Volunteerism | Inclusivity | Fair play | Sporting excellence  
Clubs play a central role in local communities, fostering participation, development, and lifelong involvement in sport.

## Why the Structure Works

The GAA Rounders championship model is designed to balance competitive integrity, national exposure, and club sustainability, ensuring meaningful competition from April through to September while maintaining strong pathways between grades.



# Overview



## Today's Game

### Women's Involvement & Pathways

We offer robust pathways for female athletes at every level of our All-Ireland Championship (Senior, Intermediate, and Junior), providing opportunities to play in both single-gender and mixed-gender formats.

**InterProvincial Championships:** In 2026, for the first time, our InterProvincial Championships will feature both Men's and Women's teams, allowing female athletes to represent their provinces in a fully female-team format.

**Junior Day:** Scheduled for May 2, 2026, this event has traditionally seen strong support from women's teams, a trend we expect to continue this year.

### Why Rounders matters in modern Ireland

In a modern context, GAA Rounders defines what an inclusive sport should be. There are no barriers to entry regarding age, gender, fitness level, or nationality. Whether competing in a social league or an All-Ireland Senior Final, every participant can find their level and enjoy the unique camaraderie of a team environment.

The core skills of the game – throwing, catching, running, and hitting – ensure that everyone can contribute their strengths. **For many Irish adults, the sport invokes a powerful sense of nostalgia for school days, but it is the addictive nature of the modern game that keeps them involved.** In an increasingly fast-paced world, GAA Rounders offers a vital opportunity to slow down, build new skills, and enjoy the social connections that make the sport a cornerstone of the community.

	2020	2025	% Increase
Number of Affiliated Clubs	30	67	123%
Number of Teams	43	108	151%
Number of Competitions	3	9	200%





# Overview

## GAA Rounders Clubs



## GAA Rounders Clubs by Province

### Leinster

- Athlone
- Ballinagore
- Borris in Ossory Kilcotton
- Castleknock
- Castletown Liam Mellows
- Clonguish
- Cúchulainn
- Davidstown Courtnacuddy
- Dublin Metropolitans
- Dunsany
- Emo
- Glynn Barntown
- Gusserane
- Kevin's
- Kilanerin-Ballyfad
- Kilrush-Askamore
- Leighlinbridge
- Limekiln Rounders
- Myshall
- Na Fianna
- Na Gaeil Nua
- Naomh Eanna
- Nobber
- Oulart The Ballagh
- Raheen
- Sean Connollys
- Skryne
- St. Martin's
- The Heath

### Ulster

- Carrickmacross Emmets
- Cremartin Shamrocks
- Drumhowan
- Erne Eagles
- Inniskeen Grattans
- Kilrea
- Naomh Trea
- St Clare's
- Sean O'Leary Newbridge
- Wolfe Tones
- Robert Emmets Slaughtneill

### Connacht

- Athenry
- Breaffy
- Elphin
- Galway City Rapparees
- Garrymore
- Kilmeena
- Kilmore
- Clontuskert
- Michael Glavey's

### Munster

- Kildimo Pallaskenry
- Knockainey
- Naomh Pol
- Na Piarsaigh
- Sporting Limerick
- St Kieran's
- St. Senan's



### Club Growth

67 clubs in 18 counties (2025)

### Membership

2,500 members (60/40 Women/Men)

### Social Media

Over 2 million total digital views across all platforms

Website traffic increased by 300% year-on-year

**Media Contact** Chiara Trench  
[communications.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:communications.rounders@gaa.ie) | (086) 8984580



# Overview

## GAA Rounders Titles



### All-Ireland Winners – Senior Championships (Mixed, Men & Women)

Year	Senior Mixed	Senior Men	Senior Women
2019	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Glynn Barntown Wexford
2020	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Erne Eagles Cavan
2021	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Adamstown Wexford
2022	• Cuchulainn Carlow	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Breaffy Mayo
2023	• The Heath Laois	• Carrickmacross Monaghan	• Breaffy Mayo
2024	• Breaffy Mayo	• Erne Eagles Cavan	• Breaffy Mayo
2025	• Breaffy Mayo	• Carrickmacross Monaghan	• Breaffy Mayo

### Provincial ‘Club of the Year’ Winners for 2025

- Connacht-Galway City Rapparees (Galway)
- Munster-St Senans (Limerick)
- Leinster-Glynn Barntown (Wexford)
- Ulster-Erne Eagles (Cavan)

**Overall Club of the Year 2025**  
Carrickmacross Emmets (Monaghan)

**President’s Awards 2025**  
CWL Winter Rounders League



### The GAA Rounders All-Stars Awards

The All-Stars are the annual national awards that recognise the best players, teams, clubs, and contributors in GAA Rounders across Ireland for that season. They are the highest individual and club honours in the sport. They are organised by GAA Rounders and usually held at a formal awards night (black-tie event) towards the end of the year.



# Personnel

## Contact Details & Media Availability



### **GAA Rounders Representatives**

**-Connacht** Martin Hoban

Email: [connacht.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:connacht.rounders@gaa.ie)

**-Ulster** Arleen Ramsey

Email: [ulster.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:ulster.rounders@gaa.ie)

**-Leinster** PJ Lalor

Email: [leinster.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:leinster.rounders@gaa.ie)

**-North Leinster/South Ulster** Ronan Kiernan

Email: [secretary.carrick.monaghan.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.carrick.monaghan.rounders@gaa.ie)

**-Munster** Michael Sheahan

Email: [munster.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:munster.rounders@gaa.ie)

### **GAA Rounders National Secretary**

Shirley Lennon

Email: [secretary.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.rounders@gaa.ie)

### **Children's Officer**

Craig Davis

Email: [childrensofficer.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:childrensofficer.rounders@gaa.ie)

### **Club Development Officer**

Mark Jennings

Email: [development.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:development.rounders@gaa.ie)

### **GAA Rounders President Paula Doherty**

Email: [president.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:president.rounders@gaa.ie)

Availability:

Radio interviews (national & regional)

Podcasts & panel discussions

Print & online features

Community and schools engagement



### **Social Media & Hashtags**

- **GAA Rounders:** IG | FB @gaarounders
- **Paula Doherty:** IG @gaa.rounders.president  
FB @uachtarangaarounders
- **Hashtags:** #GAARounders #WomenInSport  
#GAACommunity

**Media Contact** Chiara Trench  
[communications.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:communications.rounders@gaa.ie) | (086) 8984580



# Press Release



## Paula Doherty Elected First Female President of GAA Rounders

Historic appointment marks a milestone for women in Irish sport and a new chapter for grassroots Rounders. GAA Rounders has entered a landmark moment in its history with the election of Paula Doherty as the Association's first-ever female President.

The announcement comes as the sport grows rapidly, with nearly 70 clubs, more than 2,500 adult players, and new clubs forming regularly.

A native of Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Doherty has been immersed in Rounders for more than three decades. Her achievements include:

- 4 Senior Women's All-Ireland titles (2022–2025)
  - 2 Senior Mixed All-Ireland titles (2024, 2025)
  - 3 All-Star Awards at 3rd Base (2022, 2023, 2025)
- All with Breaffy Rounders.

Professionally, Paula is Programme Director and Home Economics lecturer at ATU St. Angela's, Sligo, bringing education, governance, and strategic experience to her role.

Vision: 'Rounders is part of the foundation of the GAA. Every decision we make asks: does this help all our clubs?'

Her priorities include club development, referee training, digital promotion, and nationwide communication.

*Paula Doherty pictured with the All Ireland 2025  
Senior Mixed and Womens's Trophies*





# Paula Doherty Bio



## Long Bio

Paula Doherty is the newly elected President of GAA Rounders, making history as the first woman to lead the association. A proud Castlebar native, Paula has been involved in the sport for decades, both on and off the pitch.

As a player, her record speaks for itself. Paula is a six-time All-Ireland winner and three-time All-Star. She was still competing at Senior level as recently as 2025, when she earned another All-Star for her performances and helped Breaffy secure two more All-Ireland club titles – a clear reflection of her commitment, standards and love for the game.

Away from Rounders, Paula works as Programme Director and Home Economics lecturer at ATU St. Angelas in Sligo. Her professional background in healthy living, nutrition and practical life skills strongly influences her leadership style, with a focus on balance, sustainability and lifelong participation in sport.

While she will no longer be stepping onto the pitch as a player, Paula remains deeply connected to the game. Over the coming seasons, she plans to travel across counties attending matches at every level – from Go Games at U12, right through to Senior, staying in touch with players, coaches and volunteers on the ground.

Elected for a three-year term, Paula takes on the presidency at a time of significant growth for GAA Rounders, with over two million digital engagements recorded in 2025. Her vision is to strengthen grassroots participation, increase visibility nationwide and ensure Rounders remains an inclusive, accessible sport for people of all ages.

Paula's appointment marks a landmark moment not only for GAA Rounders, but for women in Irish sport leadership. Her presidency is rooted in community, volunteerism and the core values of the GAA.

## Short Bio

Paula Doherty is the newly elected President of GAA Rounders and the first woman to hold the role. A Castlebar native, she has decades of Rounders experience as a player and leader. A six-time All-Ireland winner and three-time All-Star, she played Senior until 2025 and helped Breaffy secure additional All-Ireland titles. Professionally, she is Programme Director and Home Economics lecturer at ATU St. Angelas, Sligo. She aims to grow participation, visibility, and inclusivity in GAA Rounders nationwide.



# Approved Quotes

*"Sport connects us. Community drives us. Leadership unites us"*



## **On my election...**

*I am honoured to take on this role at such a pivotal time for GAA Rounders. I am proud of the progress we have made and excited about the opportunities ahead to grow the sport together.*

## **On lifelong participation in sport ....**

*Lifelong participation is at the heart of GAA Rounders. It's a game that welcomes everyone. GAA Rounders gives us the chance to stay active, connected, and part of a community at every stage of life.*

## **On women in sport.....**

*In 2025, two-thirds of our teams, across both women's and men's entries, were women's teams. That's a powerful indicator of the appetite for female participation in GAA Rounders. My goal is to build on this momentum by not only increasing participation but also creating clear pathways for women to lead, as coaches, officials, and decision-makers at every level of GAA Rounders. Representation matters.*

## **On the future of GAA Rounders.....**

*As President, my goal is to ensure GAA Rounders continues to grow, not just in numbers, but in impact. From grassroots to national stage, we want the sport to be a lifelong option for everyone.*

## **On participation / growth.....**

*Based on the growth we're seeing, I genuinely believe we can have over 10,000 people playing GAA Rounders annually by 2028.*

## **On Leadership, Community and Sport....**

*Leadership in sport is not just about titles — it's about serving the community that makes the game possible.*

*Strong communities create strong sports. My role is to make sure GAA Rounders continues to grow from the grassroots up.*

*For me, leadership means serving the game and the people who love it.*

