

Request for Proposals



National Collegiate GAA Championships

Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-29, 2016



The National Collegiate Gaelic Athletic Association invites proposals from any GAA club that may wish to host the NCGAA national collegiate hurling and Gaelic football finals over the 2016 Memorial Day weekend. However, extra consideration will be given to those sites proposed by collegiate clubs.

Background

The US national collegiate GAA finals have been held every year over Memorial Day weekend since 2011.

Year	Venue	Hurling teams	Football teams	Games
2011	Gaelic Park, Chicago, IL	3	0	8
2012	Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA	4	0	6
2013	Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN	3	0	4
2014	Gaelic Park & Paddy's Field, New York City, NY	7	5	39
2015	University of Montana, Missoula, MT*	6	0	13
2015	St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA*	0	3	4

*The 2015 tournament was split between two locations due to the solitary presence of Gaelic football on the East Coast at the time of selection

The overall feedback from participants has always been very positive. We aim to keep the sports played with a spirit of sportsmanship and respect. The standard of play has become high enough, especially in the championship game, that this should be seen as a promotable event that is worth bringing spectators to watch. At last year's hurling championship in Missoula, MT, we were able to bring in a crowd of over 400 spectators and we expect this level of attendance to continue to grow at our future tournaments.

What Next?

The NCGAA is eager to build on this success and increase the size of the competition each year. The level of competitiveness and fan participation has increased exponentially since 2011, and we intend to keep the interest in collegiate Gaelic sports growing in the coming years. The NCGAA is open to proposals from any interested parties that are willing to host the event and are particularly keen to host the tournament on a college campus. Ultimately, we are open to all proposal and will select which location appears most promising for the growth of Gaelic sports in American colleges.

Locations of Hurling and Football Competitions

Last year, we saw the hurling and football competitions separated due to football's presence only in the Northeast. Since the NCGAA's policy is to geographically rotate the location of the tournament each year, the 2016 tournament is due to return to the Midwest. Due to this, we have hopes of reuniting the hurling and football competitions this year. This decision has not been made final and will be reviewed once the proposals have been received. If you wish to submit a proposal and exist outside of the Midwest, be aware that this does not negate your chances to be selected but will indeed lower the probability of hosting the Championships in 2016. However, we will be selecting the 2017 location early next year and you are welcome to resubmit for 2017.

Event Requirements

- Facilities must be available for use on the Saturday and Sunday of the Memorial weekend.
- At least two fields of adequate dimensions and an adequate playing surface for hurling and football.
- Paramedics must be present during all games.
- Adequate seating must be produced to accommodate spectators.
- Fields must be closed off so that spectators can be charged for entry.
- Regulation-size GAA goalposts, or at least goalposts that can be adequately converted or reasonably accepted for GAA use. These must be secured or securable to the ground so as to prevent any dangerous tipping over.
- Scoreboard with team names and scores visible from the opposite end of the respective playing field.
- Sanitation within convenient walking distance of the field.
- Cooked food available either at the field or within convenient walking distance of it.
- Hotel or other affordable accommodation must be within convenient walking distance from the field. If this is not possible, then affordable transportation for players must be outlined, via a transit network or otherwise, or provided.
- Changing facilities for players would be desirable.
- Location for a banquet on Saturday night at a reasonable cost for players.
- Certified officials to referee the games.

Additional Opportunities

Hosts may work with the NCGAA to add extra activities and attractions to turn this into a larger crowd- pulling event.

Proposal Format

Written proposal, preferably an electronic copy in PDF format.

Proposal Contents

- How the hosting committee plans to meet the requirements.
- What the hosting committee already has in place or plans to put in place.
- Any guarantees that have been secured concerning field availability.
- Any proposed additional events and activities that could attract larger crowds. The NCGAA will work in conjunction with the host committee to finalize the exact timing of games depending on what additional activities have been planned.

Proposal Submission

Please send any proposal to the NCGAA secretary at secretary@ncgaa.org no later than August 30th. This gives the NCGAA time to clarify any points with bidding clubs, reach a decision, and inform teams of where the tournament is to be held by the end of September so that players have time to plan ahead and make travel arrangements.