

Title: Paper proposing Article Changes
Ref: AGM310321.1
Presented by: Governance Sub-committee



Introduction

This paper outlines the proposed changes to the Articles of Association for Galway Sports Partnership. It will explain the rationale behind these changes that have been reviewed and thoroughly discussed by the Governance Sub-committee.

Background

In collaboration with Sport Ireland, Galway Sports Partnership is aligning the organisation with The Governance Code by the end of 2021.

The Governance Code is a resource that was developed to assist community, voluntary and charity (CVC) organisations develop their overall capacity in terms of how they run their organisation.

It is a voluntary code provided free to all boards/committees/ executives of not-for-profit groups to encourage the organisation to regulate policy decisions with best practice in the management of their affairs as outlined in the code.

The Articles of Association were established during the merger of Galway City Sports Partnership and County Galway Local Sports Partnership in 2012.

As part of the Governance Code adoption, all aspects of the Partnership are to be reviewed for effectiveness and appropriateness. The Governance Sub-committee is tasked with establishing structures, policies and procedures that are effective, appropriate and suitable for the Partnership and its future.

Proposed Change

1. Name Change

As Galway Sports Partnership is not a limited company, Articles of Association is not a valid title for this document concerned. Governance Sub-committee proposes that with immediate effect, this document will be known as "Constitution of Galway Sports Partnership"

2. Layout

Old Format:

- 1 – Objectives
- 2 – Membership
- 3 – Key Principles
- 4 – Roles and responsibilities of the Partnership Committee
- 5 – Powers
- 6 – Officers of the Partnership
- 7 – Arrangement for Meetings
- 8 – Structure of the Partnership
- 9 – Voting Procedure
- 10 – General

The committee has reviewed the layout and it is recommended in keeping with the Governance Code that the following is more appropriate for the partnership.

New format:

- 1 – Objectives
- 2 – Key Principles
- 3 – Structure of the Partnership
- 4 – Membership
- 5 – Roles and responsibilities of the Partnership Steering Group
- 6 – Arrangement for Meetings
- 7 – Voting Procedure
- 8 – General

All references to committee and board have been removed and replaced with Galway Sports Partnership Steering Group (GSP SG).

The Governance sub-committee reviewed the language, the sections and the setup of the Constitution of Galway Sports Partnership.

Items that were repetitive, unnecessary and irrelevant were removed.

Attached is the proposed draft replacement Constitution of Galway Sports Partnership.

1. Membership

This review includes an assessment of the structure of the Steering Group and its member representation. After discussions with Sport Ireland and reviewing the membership of other similar organization to GSP, the Governance sub-committee has been advised that in order to make the steering group more effective, the membership of the steering group is to be reassessed.

The Constitution of Galway Sports Partnership proposes a reduction in the number Public Participant Network places on the steering group. This will be reduced from 3 county and 3 city representatives to 2 county and 2 city representatives.

Two new memberships will be created from representatives in Disability and Business communities.

This would mean, a wider range of the community of Galway city and county is represented whilst still maintaining a similar organisational presence on the Steering Group as already established.

This initial adjustment will greatly benefit the Partnership for a more inclusive approach to the Steering Group membership as well as the expertise from the business sector.

2. Conclusion

The Governance Sub-committee proposes that the Steering Group adopt the newly drafted Constitution of Galway Sports Partnership with effect from 31st March 2021

Representatives from Disability and Business sectors be contacted and recruited on to the steering group in the coming months.