



BALTIMORE GAA



THE BALTIMORE METRO AREA'S GAELIC GAMES SOCIETY

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Gaelic Games come to Baltimore!

The founding members of the Baltimore GAA club came out in force at this year's Baltimore Irish Festival. Our informational booth was such a success that many attendees of the festival wanted to try some of the fast paced Irish Sports.

So, on Sunday September 28th, 2003 the Baltimore GAA club had their first organized practice session in Patterson Park in Baltimore City. Both Gaelic Football and Hurling was played. We have expanded since then and have practiced numerous times in Patterson Park and plan to do so throughout the Fall.

Come out and join us, we are sure you will enjoy the experience.



The Inaugural Players

A little history of Gaelic Games...

Gaelic Games are the ancient Irish sports of Gaelic Football, Hurling, and Camogie. History states that the Gaelic Athletic Association, or the GAA, was officially founded in a hotel in County Tipperary in Ireland in 1884. However, these games were played well before this date and there is reference made to these games in Irish Folklore, the earliest being the story of how the boy Setanta became the warrior Cu Chulainn.

Teams were, and are still today, organized by locality. This meant that competition was for love of town and village and was thus very fierce. Time has not dulled this competitive spirit as today's games are as fiercely contested. It is no wonder that Gaelic Games are Ireland's national pastime.

In the US, Gaelic Games are played in many cities under the guidance of the North American County Board. Our neighbors in Washington DC have a club with 3 teams that was founded in 1988 and are celebrating 15 successful years this year.

In Ireland, Gaelic Games are played by 5 year olds to 40-somethings and everyone in between. A player can play for their club, school, county, and more recently for their country, to compete against the Australian national team.

A refurbished 80,000 seater stadium is the home of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in Ireland, a stadium that is full to capacity come championship time.



Croke Park

The Games we Play

Gaelic Football



It's not American football. It's not soccer. It's not rugby. Gaelic football is played on a field larger than a soccer or American football field. To score, a player must get a soccer-type ball into the net of a goal (for three points or what is called a 'goal') or through the uprights above the goal (for one point or what is called a 'point'). Gaelic footballers use their hands and there is no off-sides. To move the ball, a player is allowed to kick it, punch it (but not throw it), run with the ball for four strides, bounce it (but only once) or solo it (to drop the ball to one's foot and tap it back into one's hands). No other sport offers you the thrill of soccer, the tactics of rugby and the skill of basketball!

Hurling / Camogie



Women play camogie and men play hurling!

These are the fastest field games in the world. They are played with a small ball, called a sliotar, which is similar in size to a field hockey ball but with raised edges, and a curved wooden stick, called a hurley, which is curved outwards at the end to provide the striking surface. Hurling is played on the same field as Gaelic football and with the same style of goalposts. A player may strike the ball on the ground or in the air. Unlike field hockey, however, a player may pick up the ball and carry it for four strides. After those steps, the player may bounce the ball on the hurley and back into the player's hand, remembering not to catch the ball more than twice. While running, the player must balance the ball on the hurley stick.

Contact Us

If you are interested in playing or watching Gaelic Games or if you are interested in receiving our monthly newsletter please sign-up by sending an e-mail to baltimoregaa@hotmail.com or through our web site www.baltimoregaa.com.



For more information, detailed descriptions of Football, Camogie, and Hurling, photographs, and up-coming events of interest - check out our web site. www.baltimoregaa.com