

**THE  
IRISH SPORTS  
COUNCIL**



**AN CHOMHAIRLE SPÓIRT**

The Irish Sports Council believes passionately in the intrinsic value of sport. At the most basic level, sport is about enjoying physical activity and competition. The Council's job is to ensure that every person has the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of playing, participating and competing in the sport of their choice, and at a level appropriate to their ability.

The Irish Sports Council was established in 1999 and immediately dedicated itself to developing sport in Ireland in a strategic and planned fashion. The Council carries out many functions and fulfils different roles. However, all of our different activities serve two simple objectives; increasing participation in sport and improving the standards of elite sport.

The sports community shares our view that we must provide quality participation opportunities to people throughout their lives. Over the years National Governing Bodies of Sport have played a vital role in the development of sport. Irish Gymnastics is one of these key bodies.

Over the last few years Irish Gymnastics has undergone a number of structural changes which has helped the sport of gymnastics to develop and grow. It has also made significant progress in professionalising its services.

The launch of the new IG Strategic plan 2009 – 2012 this year will see the organisation and sport continue to develop along these positive lines and is fully supported by the ISC, the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer was a key part of driving this process forward.

A number of exciting programmes are also being pioneered and developed by IG as an NGB which will take the sport to the next level in its development. The coach education, Springboard and Policy & Welfare development programmes are key examples of this.

These initiatives would not have come to fruition without the dedication and hard work of the board members, staff and committees, together with support of all the members.

It is important that members have a voice in how their Governing Body is run. An AGM plays a significant role in this process. It gives the ordinary members/ clubs the opportunity to raise and discuss issues that are important for the development of the organisation.

Finally, I look forward to continued partnership between the Irish Sports Council and Irish Gymnastics and I am confident that with the hard work and support of its members that the governing body and all the disciplines within the sport will go from strength to strength in the coming years.

Marie Ahern  
NGB Support Unit Manager