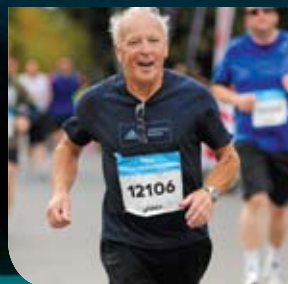


Federation of Irish Sport **Annual Review 2012**

the **future** of **Irish Sport**



Our Vision

To provide support, guidance and an independent voice for Irish Sport.

Our Mission

To be the most relevant membership organisation for national sporting organisations by being recognised as the definitive independent leadership voice for sport in Ireland.

Strategic Objectives

- To ensure that financial and other support for sport is seen as a necessity by the public, government and the media
- To ensure the development of a strategic approach to sport by government and in particular, to encourage a joined up approach to sport, health and education
- To work with the Irish Sports Council to build the operational capacity of all member organisations
- To ensure the Federation is sufficiently well resourced to carry out its strategic objectives and to ensure its long term viability.



Delivering a strong return on investment

In 2012 the government invested approximately €80 million in Irish Sport.

For that investment Irish Sport was able to fund a wide number of elite athletes; support development programmes in over 50 sports; develop the Local Sports Partnerships in every county in Ireland; help teams and individuals travel abroad to compete for Ireland; attract many thousands of sport tourists; create jobs; introduce countless numbers of children to sport and ultimately not only provided the structure to enable 2.1 million people participate in sport but also held many wonderful sporting events that entertained the nation and helped instil much needed pride in everyone.

Amongst the highlights of the year (in no particular order) were:

- 35,000 fans travelling to Dublin to watch the Emerald Isle Classic American football game between Notre Dame and Navy, the largest ever contingent of travelling fans for a stand-alone sporting event outside of the U.S.
- Over 38,000 jobs being supported by Irish Sport
- An estimated €1.8 billion generated for the Irish economy contributing 1.4% to GDP
- Irish athletes competing in 70 different countries around the world
- More than 30 different international sports events being held in Ireland
- 2 Irish teams competing in the first ever All-Irish Heineken Cup Final
- Rory McIlroy becoming the first Irish golfer and only the second person ever to top both the US PGA and European Tour money lists
- Winning 5 medals together with an additional 6 top ten finishes at the Olympic Games
- 16 medals being won at the Paralympic Games
- 15% of Irish adults volunteering in Irish Sport with the economic value of the work estimated to exceed €350 million
- 2.2 million Irish people watching the Paralympic Games on television whilst 1.1 million of us tune in to see Katie Taylor win gold
- 30 countries sending teams or athletes to Ireland to prepare for the Olympic & Paralympic Games including 16 countries using the National Aquatic Centre
- The Irish Open at Portrush becoming the first ever regular European Tour Event to sell out with 130,000 people attending over the 4 days of competition
- 83% of children being involved in sport outside school
- 51 different nationalities taking part in the Dublin Marathon
- €2.45 million being generated for the local economy by the Great Limerick Run
- 900,000+ spectators and tourists visiting the Volvo Ocean Race and Global Village during the 9 day event
- 130 podium finishes being achieved by Ireland's elite sportsmen and sportswomen over the last four years, an increase from 70 over the previous Olympic cycle
- Both the men's and women's hockey teams coming within a match of qualifying for the Olympics.

And that is only a small cross section of what sport delivered. Irish sport matters. In fact as the only consistently positive story over the last five years it has never mattered more!

2012: Irish Sport by Numbers

€100,000,000

the economic impact of the Emerald Isle Classic American Football match at the Aviva stadium

€86,000,000

spent on sporting goods and services this summer in Ireland

€44,500,000

the Irish Sports Council Budget for 2012

1,100,000+

people tuned in to watch Katie Taylor win gold at London Olympics

500,000+

adults volunteered in Irish Sport

82,267

people attended All-Ireland Gaelic Football Final

53,000

hours of physical activity generated as a direct result of the Great Limerick Run

38,000+

jobs supported by sport in Ireland

2,300

hours of Olympic coverage on RTE

125

countries broadcast the first All-Irish Heineken Cup final

86%

increase in international podium finishes by Irish Athletes in the last Olympic Cycle

46%

of the population participate in sport every week

16

Paralympic medals

5

Olympic medals

1

Federation of Irish Sport representing 71 National Sports Organisations in Ireland and 28 Local Sports Partnerships

Introduction

Fergus Murphy

Chairman, Federation of Irish Sport

This is the fourth year that the Federation has produced an end of the sporting year document, an annual report on just what Irish sport has achieved over the course of the year. And once again Irish sport has delivered, both at home and abroad, and in the process has been one of the bright spots in what has undoubtedly been another difficult year for Ireland Inc.



When we set out in 2009 with our first report our intention was very much focused on trying to minimise the impact of the recession on the financial support that sport both needs and receives from the Irish taxpayer. At the time we specifically sought to minimise the cuts that we knew would be made to the annual funding that sport receives through the Irish Sports Council.

We also wished to ensure that sport would continue to have a voice at the cabinet table; that government would keep the proposed National Sports Campus project alive; and that consideration would be given to a re-instatement of the Sports Capital Programme at the earliest possible time.

Looking back I can say that we have achieved varying degrees of success on all fronts. While funding continues to be cut there does appear to be a greater appreciation of the need to protect such funding. Sport continues to have a presence, perhaps even an enhanced presence at the cabinet table, the National Sports Campus is making real progress and finally the Sports Capital programme was re-introduced in 2012.

For our part we have come to realise that perhaps our own ambitions for sport were themselves limited in their scope and ambition so last year we engaged with government to see how we could look at sport in a fresh light and see what more sport could do to play a full part in our economic recovery, and also in the rebuilding of our reputation abroad. In the following pages the Federation's CEO looks more closely at how much progress has been made on that agenda.

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Which brings me to this year's report and the theme we have chosen – "SPORT 2020: What sport in Ireland could look like in the year 2020". What we did was to consult with people across the sporting spectrum and to ask them for their vision of sport in 2020. In doing so we asked them to put aside any barriers that they might see getting in the way of delivering that vision and to set out what they would like to see in an ideal world.

We then sense checked their vision against the barriers that we perceive to get in the way of sport realising its potential. Interestingly in many cases the barriers are totally surmountable – if there is a collective will to surmount them. And that is even allowing for the times we live in.

We have summarised some of the views and the visions in one section of the report (pages 6-7) and we have also used a number of short pieces from different sources throughout the report.

We have, of course, also reflected on the sporting year 2012 and just what sport continues to deliver for the country on so many different fronts. As we have said so many times SPORT MATTERS. In fact we would contend that it matters more today than it ever has in the past.

What we did was to consult with people across the sporting spectrum and to ask them for their vision of sport in 2020. In doing so we asked them to put aside any barriers that they might see getting in the way of delivering that vision and to set out what they would like to see in an ideal world.

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FERGUS MURPHY

Chairman
Federation of Irish Sport



Thoughts on 2012

Sarah O'Connor

Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Irish Sport

Irish Sport is about much more than just the sport itself. Sport delivers a rich dividend for Ireland in terms of its impact on our economy, on our health, our self-image, our reputation abroad, tourism and our community spirit at home. This is a message the Federation has consistently sought to deliver over the last number of years.

The recession has perhaps forced sport to think about itself more as a unit and less as the individual entities that make up our rich and diverse sporting community. This has opened our eyes as a sector and allowed us to think bigger as to where we would like to go and what we could do for Ireland in the process.

As this review will hopefully demonstrate sport does a lot for Ireland and Irish Sport truly believes that if the potential of sport was maximised it could do even more. We took this message to government last year and whilst the Vision2020 pieces that follow establish that there is a lot more yet to be done some very positive steps have been taken over the course of 2012:

- The government have made a commitment, in recognition of the very real contribution sport makes to the economy and to Ireland's reputation

at home and abroad, that sport will form part of the next year's Global Economic Forum

- There is a recognition that both government and sport need to work together to diversify the funding sources available to sport
- Government is examining ways of encouraging increased philanthropic support for sport
- Sport is to play its part in the Gathering 2013 in recognition of the particular ability of sport to draw people to Ireland
- The government have committed to the development of the National Sports Campus making seed capital available to the national governing bodies to commence the development of sport specific facilities and giving the go-ahead for the community facilities
- The Sports Capital Programme, enabling the development of local facilities, took place for the first time since 2010 with a further programme intended in 2015
- Consultation has taken place in relation to the role and remit of "Sport Ireland" the new state agency for sport to be established following the merger of the



As this review will hopefully demonstrate sport does a lot for Ireland and Irish Sport truly believes that if the potential of sport was maximised it could do even more.

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Ireland was represented by our most diverse Olympic Team with athletes competing in 13 different sports



An Irish Team once again won a Heineken Cup



Our Paralympic Team was the most successful one ever returning with 16 medals

Irish Sports Council and the National Sports Campus Development Authority offering an opportunity for increased involvement of that agency in other areas of government policy that impact on sport

- 52% of sporting bodies in receipt of Irish Sports Council funding now have provision for alternative dispute resolution in the form of Just Sport Ireland within their governing rules thereby minimising the risk of those bodies being involved in court litigation and wasting valuable resources on non-sporting activities.

However as 2012 draws to a close and the commentary once again returns to the economic crisis and impending budget cuts it is all too easy to see the challenges for sport grow and the opportunities diminish. We need to retain the spirit of the memories created by what was a fantastic year for Irish Sport and not let the pride and that elusive feel good factor dim with the autumnal light. This truly was a brilliant year for Irish Sport:

- We were represented in London by our most diverse Olympic Team with Irish athletes competing in 13 different sports out of a possible 26
- Our Paralympic Team was our most successful one ever returning with 16 medals
- An Irish Team once again won a Heineken Cup
- Ireland competed in a major football championship for the first time in 10 years

- Irish golf made a significant contribution to the astonishing European Ryder Cup success
- Gaelic Games displayed the very best of sport with astonishing Killkenny coming out on top again, Donegal re-emerging in football, Wexford demonstrating impressive consistency in Camogie and Cork taking their seventh football crown in eight years
- 5 Olympic Medals including Gold for the incredible Katie Taylor
- 2.1 million of us took part in more than 70 different sports around the country whilst 15% of Irish adults volunteered in sport.

Of all of these achievements it is likely that it is Katie's medal that will live longest in all of our memories. One of those moments that you remember where you were when... Being lucky enough to be in the Excel Arena that day you were reminded that the occasion was about so much more than just sport.

It was about being Irish with all the world watching. How so many Irish people had managed to get tickets to be there was typical but still incredible. The arena at the most international of sporting occasions was 90% Irish, all of whom cheered for the British boxer fighting before Katie. Sport demonstrating how far we have come as a nation in terms of relations with our nearest neighbour.

The pre-match commentary centred on the magnificent Irish support at the boxing venue for the duration of the competition. Ireland's reputation was enhanced. People who may not have visited Ireland before will visit because

of the Irish support that week. Perhaps Ireland will have a better chance at playing host to boxing and other international sporting championships because of what happened outside of the boxing ring in front of the world's sporting community.

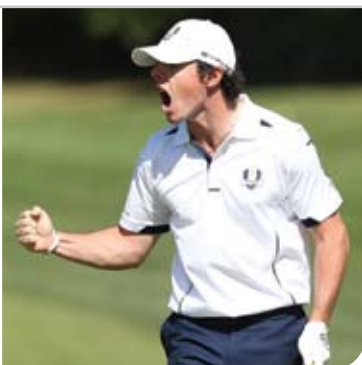
But most of all, we as a country and as a people felt great. The impossible was possible. Talent, hard work and belief overcame the challenges and for a few moments, our flag flew higher than all others. Sport taught us that day that we should have faith in ourselves and with the right support, hard work and effort anything is possible. Katie reminded us of the best in ourselves and for that we should be eternally grateful to her. We need to grasp that memory of that great day and live it.

Sport is an important cornerstone for the improvement of Irish Society. A more active Ireland would be a better Ireland not just for the sake of sport but for the wider impact it would have on our overall quality of life.

During these incredibly challenging times it is important that we do not forget to lay the foundations for better times... sport will not only help us get there but will sustain us along the way. In this report we not only look back at what happened in 2012 but also look to the future to see what sport could and should look like in 2020. But to get there we need to act now.

SARAH O'CONNOR

Chief Executive Officer
Federation of Irish Sport



Irish golf made a significant contribution to the astonishing European Ryder Cup success



Wexford representing impressive consistency in Camogie and Cork taking their seventh football crown in eight years



Ireland competed in a major football championship again

Sport 2020

A sporting life for everyone

It is the year 2020. The Olympic / Paralympic Games are just around the corner. So what does sport look like in Ireland? How much has it changed from 2010 when all the talk seemed to be about the funding or non-funding of sport, when the future looked particularly bleak.

Happily a great deal has changed. Those appeals to Government to let sport play its part in the rebuilding of our economy and of our reputation abroad have been taken on board. Sport has been embraced by one and all, and not only are our elite sportsmen and sportswomen reaping the benefits but just as importantly sport is playing a major role in the fight against obesity and in improving the overall health of the nation.

So what does the sporting landscape look like? What have been the main changes and how have they made a real difference?

Irish Sport is coming to the end of its first ever five year Masterplan which embraces every element of sport in Ireland. The plan has been a huge success with no decisions being made regarding sport that do not tie in to the "Masterplan". The Government have confirmed that a second plan building on the success of the current one will be in position immediately following the Olympics.

A vital element in the success has undoubtedly been the establishment of a single state entity to deal with all sport related matters. SPORT IRELAND

was formed by bringing together the old Irish Sports Council, the National Sports Campus Development Authority, Coaching Ireland and the Irish Institute of Sport.

The new entity is undoubtedly one of the strongest state bodies, with absolute control over all state involvement in sport. The new body, with a board drawn from sport and business not alone administers the high performance budget and the grants to the various sports NGBs, it also has total control of the sports capital budget. No decision involving sport in Ireland is made without its input and that includes decisions relating to sport and health and also in relation to sports tourism.

While Sport Ireland is the official state body for sport, Irish sport itself is today seen to be represented by an equally strong body which speaks with a unified voice for all sport in Ireland. The new body which has grown out of the Federation of Irish Sport is today consulted on all issues relating to sport. No investments are made in sport or sporting infrastructure without full consultation with the new 'Federation'. There is a complete recognition that sport knows what sport needs and that sport must be part of all investment decisions whether that investment be in high performance, development, recreational sport or facilities.

Undoubtedly one of the major changes that have come about since the establishment of Sport Ireland has been a realisation by sport that it needs to look for new ways to fund itself.

Sport has definitely found this easier to embrace given the fact that it now feels it has a real say in how Government funding through Sport Ireland for individuals, organisations and perhaps even more importantly facilities is administered. There is a real belief now that all investments are made where they are most needed and that investments are made for the greater good of all of Irish sport.

For its part the Government has not alone realised the importance of sport but has totally embraced its potential to deliver in so many different ways including health and tourism.

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The fact that the Government has awarded amateur sport charitable status has been a major help particularly for the more minor sports. It really has encouraged greater investment from a variety of different sources both at national and local level, particularly into sports that otherwise would have continued to struggle to raise much needed funds.

The recognition by Government that the betting industry is today about far more than betting on horse racing has also been reflected in a much fairer distribution of the funds raised by the new taxes on the betting industry. This has been a major breakthrough and it has undoubtedly helped make up for all the necessary cuts in more traditional areas of funding.

Sport still however needs to explore new ways of generating funds, ways that decrease the dependence on government funding even more – and this is recognised by all sports.

For its part the Government has not alone realised the importance of sport but has totally embraced its potential to deliver in so many different ways including health and tourism. On the health front the Government has set a target for sport to cut the annual expenditure on health

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by a billion euro through innovative programmes focusing on health and fitness for all age groups. Sport has been challenged to make Ireland the most physically active nation in Europe.

The Government has also sanctioned the setting up of SPORTS BID IRELAND, a joint venture between Sport Ireland and the "Federation" to bid for international sports events across all sports. The body has been tasked to deliver at least one major event every year but this target has already been exceeded with ten events including an Olympic Boxing Qualifying event, a World Sailing Championship, a European Triathlon and the IPC World Swimming Championships already destined for Ireland.

Pride of place, must go to the winning of Rugby World Cup 2023. A terrific demonstration of what Irish sport can do when everyone pulls together. The spirit of co-operation between the GAA and the IRFU/FAI has resulted in the country today having a superb resource of redeveloped stadia capable of hosting events of differing sizes. With stadia being used all over the country the economic benefits will be shared by one and all – and Ireland will most definitely be in the shop window for such major events in the future.

The completion of the National Sports Campus has been a huge success on many fronts. For the first time ever our Olympic and Paralympic teams have had a proper home base at which to train and to finalise their preparations for the Games.

The investment in the Campus has also reaped dividends for sports tourism. Such is the quality of the facilities more and more teams, and indeed individuals, have been coming to Dublin for training camps and that trend looks certain to continue.

The decision of the Government to invest both in a Velodrome and a multi-sports hall on the site has been widely welcomed as again such investment will not alone have major implications for Irish sport but also will undoubtedly be used by Sports Bid Ireland to attract more events.

Perhaps, however, the biggest change of all has been in the area of recreational sport. The government's decision to make greater use of sport as a tool to improve the nation's health has begun to pay dividends.

With stadia being used all over the country the economic benefits will be shared by one and all – and Ireland will most definitely be in the shop window for such major events in the future.

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With all schools now having daily physical activity as part of their curriculum there is a heightened awareness amongst children of the benefits of physical activity. This has undoubtedly helped tackle the problems identified in relation to both obesity and self-image.

Hand in hand with the schools initiative has been a brilliant social media campaign to promote recreational sport in general. The "Sport Is For Everyone" website continues to attract new visitors daily. It has proven to be a brilliant introduction to such recreational activities as swimming, jogging and cycling whilst also letting visitors to the site know how best to go about accessing the more organised sports which now all offer introductory sessions as to what they have to offer. The fact that swimming, jogging and cycling all now offer "Meet Up and Just Do It" group sessions has been a real success.

The increasing involvement of girls in sport must also be commented on. The fact that so many now continue on in sport when they leave school has resulted in a real surge in women's sport. We have more elite women than ever before in Irish sport and this year will see the largest number of women ever on an Irish Olympic team.

Interestingly, while the main focus has been on getting younger people to see sport as part of their lives on an on-going basis, there has also been a growth in the number of over 50s becoming more active. "Silver Sport" is on the move.

Yes in 2020 Ireland has at last embraced the fact that everyone can, and should, have a sporting life.

the future of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

John Treacy

Chief Executive Officer,
Irish Sports Council



Irish sport has had a great year in 2012. Sport has travelled a long way in recent years but is only at the beginning of its potential. By 2020 the Irish sports sector will be making an even greater contribution to our economy and society.

Over the next decade we hope to see continuing increases in the number of people participating in sport and physical activity. The focus of the Local Sports Partnerships is on "hard to reach" groups and they are very successful in activating people who face barriers to participating in sport. Over time we want to see more people participating but also greater consistency in numbers across all social groups.

The National Governing Bodies are the central pillar around which Irish sport is constructed. Huge strides have been made by well-run organisations in recent years in the delivery of services to members.

The aim for 2020 must be greater financial stability for sports bodies.

They need to establish sustainable streams of income which will include greater levels of private investment in sport.

By 2020 Ireland can be a model for how small countries can compete in high performance sport. There have been clear and measurable improvements in performance in recent years and we aim to continue that progress. 2020 will be an Olympic and Paralympic year and we will be able to measure our progress against that high standard. The National Sports Campus at Abbotstown will make a significant contribution to high performance sport and will be a centre of excellence for all our sports bodies.

There is a huge talent and commitment within the community to continue to build the sector so that we will be recognised nationally and internationally as a healthy and sporting nation.

High Performance Sport

Investment in sport is paying off

2012 was the year which proved that the investment in Irish Sport is yielding results. 8 years after consistent investment in high performance sport commenced, Ireland sent our most diverse team ever to the London Olympics with Irish athletes competing in 13 of the 26 sports. The team took home 5 medals which, for the first time since 1980, included medals in more than 1 sport. There were also a further 6 top 10 placings. Meanwhile our Paralympic team was the most successful ever winning 16 medals in total including 8 gold.

Behind our senior athletes there is a realm of younger athletes benefitting from the opportunity provided by established and working high performance programmes. Can Ireland compete at the top table? With the right support we most definitely can and here are just some of the results our elite athletes have delivered in the past year.



One gold, one silver & three bronze medals

London Olympic Games

8 gold, 3 silver & 5 bronze medals

at the London Paralympic Games

8th in T20 World Rankings for Irish Men's Cricket Team



4th

Irish win in the Heineken Cup in 5 years with an All-Irish Final in Twickenham



1st time Ireland took part in a Major Football Championships since 2002 World Cup



4

Irish golfers ranked in the Top 100 in the world

130

medals across all sports at all levels between the Beijing and London Games compared to 70 medals between Athens and Beijing Games

11

coaches complete Swim Ireland's first ever Level 3 Coaching Programme

1st Place in Aga Khan Trophy at the Dublin Horse Show



1st place for Ireland's Men's Tug of War team at 700kg World Outdoor Championships

2nd



place at World Youth Sailing Championships for Ireland's Finn Lynch

**2nd place at
European Swimming
Championships for
Sycerika McMahon**



1st

**place in the Money
List of the US PGA
and European Tour
for Rory McIlroy**



**2nd place for Aileen
Morrison at Madrid
Triathlon – the best ever
result by an Irish athlete**

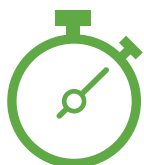
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**bronze medals
at the World
Baton Twirling
International Cup**

**Clara Peters
breaks into
Top 30 World
Figure Skating
Rankings**



**Jason Smyth
became the
fastest Paralympian
of all time**



**1st place for
Craig Breen
in the S2000
World Rally
Championship**

**1st female
Judoka
qualifies
for Olympic
Games in
Lisa Kearney**

**Rowing
silver medal
for Irish rowers at the
World Student Games**



2

**Irish women on the British
and Irish Curtis Cup Team
which defeated the U.S. in
Scotland for the first time
since 1996**

1st

**at the European Bouldering
Cup for Ireland's Dominic
Burns who is also ranked
no. 1 in the World**

**6 top 10 finishes by Irish
athletes at the London
Olympics including two 4th
places by Rob Heffernan
and Annalise Murphy**



the future of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Stephen Martin

Chief Executive,
Olympic Council of Ireland



The culture of Irish Sport in 2020 will see high performance sport defined by a mentality that seeks results fuelled by a desire to be the best, to be world leaders in the field.

There will be co-operation and co-ordination between all agencies with world class professional staff and standards. Ireland will consistently medal at European, World & Olympic Games at both youth and senior level.

The sporting environment will see an impressive array of first class facilities and staff which will allow Irish athletes to train more at home. No one operates in isolation and success when it comes is shared.

Irish athletes are all well-balanced individuals with a sense of responsibility back to the community which supports them.

They understand the requirements of high level sport and can access and appreciate an Irish sporting system that is of a world class standard. Indeed, they have grown up within that system.

Irish sports bodies work together and challenge each other to achieve the best outcome for the athlete in a mutually beneficial partnership.

The leadership they provide is characterized by a sense of unity and a knowledge that the bar is being set as high as possible and there is a willingness to take tough decisions when they are required.

There is no duplication between Ireland's State Agencies and the OCI, and the leadership they provide is seen as bold, unselfish, showing that Ireland is on the world's pace. Sport will speak to government in a single voice.

There are no excuses.

Sport & Children in Ireland

Investment in sport is paying off

Four out of five Irish children do not meet the Department of Health and Children's National Physical Activity Guidelines for maintaining and improving their current and future health. Over 300,000 children on the island of Ireland are estimated to be either overweight or obese. Children who are obese between the ages of 6 months and 5 years have a 25% chance of being obese as adults. If children are obese when over the age of 6, the chance of being obese as adults increases to 50% whilst this becomes an 80% chance for obese adolescents.

Children need to learn general movement concepts about how their body can and should move before learning specialised sport specific skills and this is now recognised in most sport and school programmes in Ireland.

A key element in turning the tide on the rising obesity trend is that all Irish children get the minimum 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise every day. There is much to do to make this a reality. It will involve co-operation and collaboration between the various different entities. Happily the process has started and Irish Sport is already working to get more Irish children active and involved in sport. In 2012:

- the GAA delivered football programmes in 2,752 primary schools
- 16,000 young people took part in FAI summer camps
- 130,855 young people were involved in schools and club rugby
- 60% of primary schools in Sligo took part in the LSP's Annual Athletics Festival

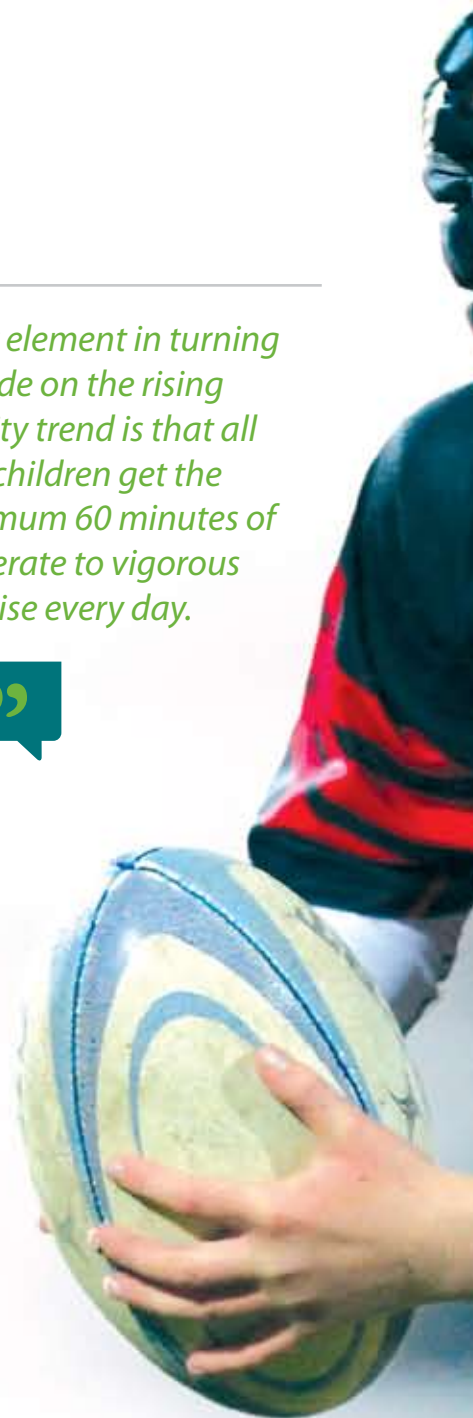
- 1,000 children took part in the Fingal Future Olympians Primary School Competition
- 900 primary school children joined Sonia O'Sullivan for the Fingal 2k Fun Run
- 13 Local Sports Partnerships delivered a physical activity afterschool programme for primary school children
- 1,000 children and adults received cycling training from Westmeath LSP
- 25,000 girls under the age of 12 played Camogie as part of the 'Go Games' blitz
- 350 children took part in Paddlefest – a three day long festival of canoeing
- 81,071 children attended GAA Cúl Camps across 32 counties
- 1,500 children took part in Go for Sport programme run by Donegal LSP
- 12% more boys and 15% more girls played Hockey across the country
- 850 new under 17 players were exposed to table tennis through participation events and Junior Challenger Series
- 200,000 children partook part in Community Games.

A key element in turning the tide on the rising obesity trend is that all Irish children get the minimum 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise every day.

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the **future** of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Susan Marron

Chairperson,
Irish Primary PE Association



By 2020 Physical Education ("PE") will be at the heart of children's education. A child's experience of PE will help develop their physical, social and emotional competences as well as give them the confidence to participate in physical activity and appropriate extra-curricular and community sporting opportunities.

Children will have the opportunity through physical education to a wide variety of learning opportunities related to content in gymnastics, dance, athletics, aquatics, games as well as outdoor and adventure activities. PE will be inclusive, fun and maximise physical activity opportunities in lessons.

A child's progress in PE will be assessed, recorded and reported to parents. Planning for physical education will be undertaken by all staff led by a subject leader and supported by the school principal. PE will be taught to children by their class teacher who will have access to appropriate continuous professional development by professionals with expertise in primary education.

PE will be supported by physically active schools which maximise opportunities to promote physical activity at lesson transitions and break times and which encourage active travel to and from school. Optional extra-curricular activities will be supported by the National Governing Bodies of Sport, Local Sports Partnerships and the HSE.

Health & Participation

Investment in sport is paying off

Physical inactivity is a major public health issue with 13% of Irish people being sedentary. This figure has declined from 18% in recent years which means that sport has begun to make a difference.

Yet 61% of Irish adults are either overweight or obese and 2,000 premature deaths in Ireland are attributed to obesity. Physical inactivity is responsible for 6% of deaths globally and 1.6bn people are estimated to be overweight in the world. This figure is due to increase to 2.3bn by 2015.

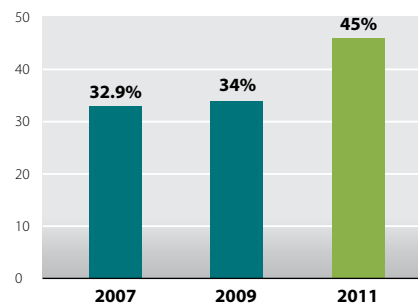
Physical inactivity is estimated to be the principal cause for 21% - 25% of breast and colon cancers, 27% of diabetes and 30% of heart disease.

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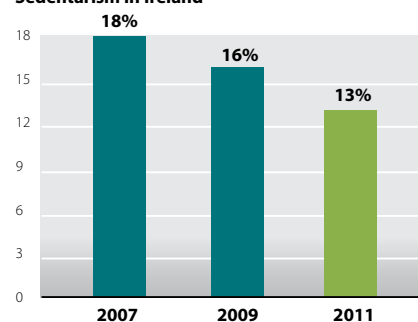
The UK estimate that 11% of their annual health-spend is directly related to physical inactivity. Applied to Ireland, this would amount to €1.3 billion in 2012. Two European Union studies found that physical inactivity costs €150-€300 per citizen whilst the Report of the National Taskforce on Obesity indicated that the direct and indirect economic costs of premature deaths associated with obesity may be costing the state as much as €4bn per year. Ireland currently invests approximately €18 per citizen directly to sport.

Physical inactivity is estimated to be the principal cause for 21% - 25% of breast and colon cancers, 27% of diabetes and 30% of heart disease. Increased participation in sport therefore will not just improve public health but also could make a significant saving in terms of the money spent on health.

Participation in Sport in Ireland



Sedentarism in Ireland



17% increase in Athletics Ireland membership



10,000 athletes partook in Special Olympics competition



50,000 entered 168 Triathlon Ireland Races

8,000 leisure cyclists took part in the 112 mile Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle.

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Irish Sport is working to increase the number of opportunities for people to partake in sport and good progress is being made. More people are exercising and less people are physically inactive and this is in large part due to the work being done on a continual basis by Local Sports Partnerships, sporting bodies and their volunteers. Numerous mass participation events were held and membership of sports clubs increased ensuring that a new culture of physical activity is beginning to take shape in Ireland.

- 14,300 people participated in the Dublin Marathon 2012
- 38% of the population are members of a sports club up from 32% in 2009
- 17% increase in Athletics Ireland membership over the last year
- 10,000 athletes participated in Special Olympics competitions this year
- 11% increase in the number of people who took part in the An Post Meath Heritage Cycle
- 15% increase in the number of registered players in the Irish American Football League
- 50,000 people entered 168 Triathlon Ireland Races
- 29,581 people have taken part in Sport Wexford programmes since 2008
- 6.7% of adults aged 16 and over swim each week
- 8,000 leisure cyclists took part in the 112 mile Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle
- 2,000 athletes took part in the Irish Rowing Championships making it the biggest championships ever
- 40,000 women took part in the Dublin Flora Women's mini-marathon
- 30 new members & 4 new clubs at the Horseshoe Pitching Association
- 60 adults took part in Offaly LSP's 10 week meet and train programme
- 3,000 took part in the Meath Heritage Cycle with 400 on the family spin
- 15,000 people are members of Cycling Ireland marking a 300% increase in four years
- 2,000 people took part in 245 sport related event as part of Active Donegal Month
- 2,200 cyclists took part in the Tour de Burren
- 8,500 people participated in the Great Limerick Run.



6.7% of adults aged 16 and over swim each week



15,000 people are members of Cycling Ireland marking a 300% increase in four years

the future of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Karl Henry

Personal Trainer
& Fitness Expert,
Karl Henry Personal Training



We live in an amazing country with facilities to cater for every sport enthusiast. Despite this we are in an obesity epidemic. The future needs to see change, adaptation and more movement across all age groups. The fact is no matter what your waist line, the fitter you are the healthier you are. Improved fitness levels lead to healthier, happier and ultimately longer lives. In 2020, I would like to see an Ireland where all people get the minimum amount of recommended exercise - that is 30 minutes of moderate exercise 5 times a week for adults and 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise every day for children.

I would hope that all Irish people have access to the information and knowledge to improve and maintain their fitness levels through innovative ideas and promotion on government and local level. Irish people will move more on a regular basis, any form of movement such as walking, cycling, swimming or surfing on our western surf mecca. Irish people will all take part in physical activity ensuring that their breath rate is elevated whilst doing it so that our heart and lungs are working hard for peak benefits, no matter what age people are. A fitter and stronger Ireland will reduce all our medical bills, improve life expectancy and improve our health, leading to a healthier, happier more productive society.

In 2020, getting our exercise has become as automatic as wearing a seatbelt. As a result we are the only European country where levels of obesity are declining. Irish people understand the direct link between health and fitness so we are moving more and sitting less. There is an energy and positivity within society as we realise just how lucky we are to live in a country that has such an abundance of mountains, lakes and sea.

Our Sporting Visitors

Sports tourism is serious business

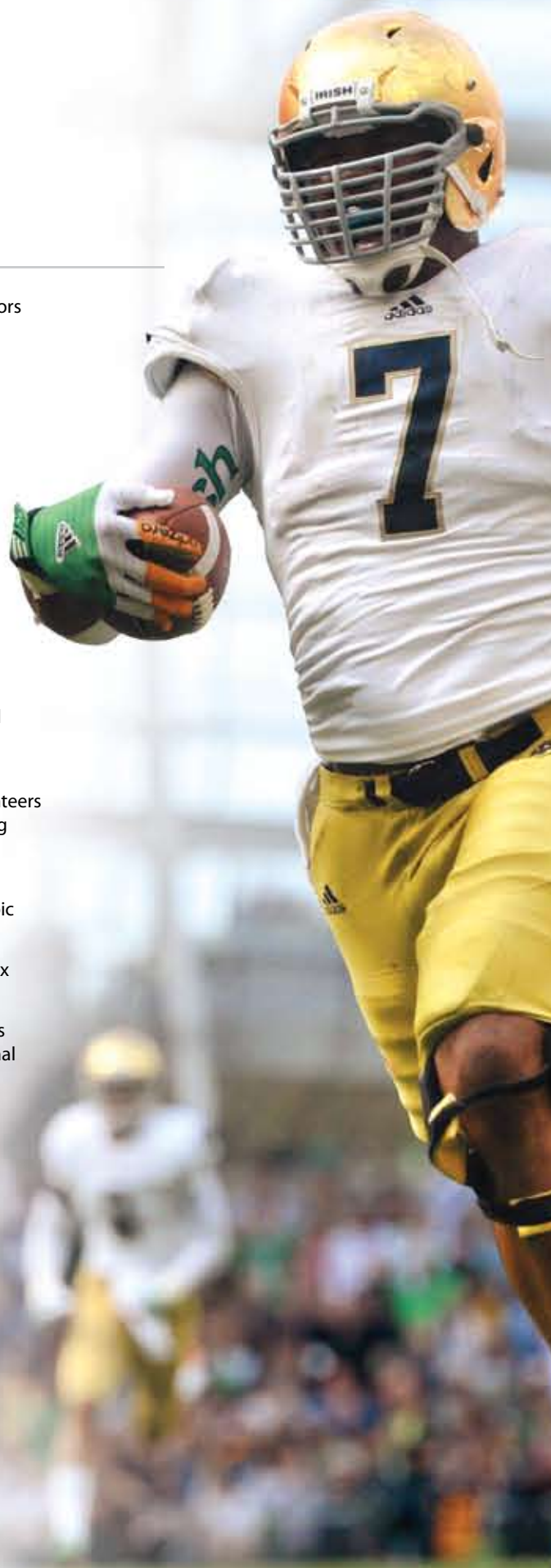
Sports tourism is serious business. Research by the British Tourism Authority has indicated that the tourist who comes to indulge in his or her chosen sporting passion spends almost twice as much as the “ordinary tourist”. Perhaps then it is no surprise that 2013’s The Gathering has targeted sporting activities and sporting events as a major part of its marketing campaign.

The power of sports tourism was very much in evidence in 2012 with the American Football Game between U.S. Navy and Notre Dame attracting a capacity crowd which included 35,000 visitors from the U.S. To put that figure in perspective it is the largest number of Americans to ever travel to a sporting fixture outside of the U.S. ever – and that includes the Olympic Games.

Many of these visitors combined the game with a holiday in Ireland and preliminary research has indicated that hotels, restaurants, shops and golf courses saw a sharp increase in business not alone in the period around the game but throughout August and September. Initial figures indicate that the overall contribution to the economy as a whole should be in the excess of €100 million. Sports Tourism Works!

But the U.S. Football was only one example of the power of sports tourism. Over 30 international sporting events were held in Ireland in 2012. Some of the positive examples of where sport generated tourism revenue for the economy include

- An estimated 155,000 overseas visitors played golf during their visit to Ireland, their total estimated spend being €204 million, supporting some 7,300 jobs
- 1.15 million people attended the Tall Ships events in Dublin Port
- €100m is the estimated economic impact of the Volvo Ocean Race according to the Galway Chamber of Commerce
- €171,000 was spent by competitors in the Dragon Gold Cup Sailing Championships in Kinsale
- 2,500 people travelled from the United States for the GIFT series of American football games generating an economic return of €4.5 million
- The European Handball Challenge Trophy held in Limerick generated €250,000 for the local economy
- €410,000 was the total spend attributable to the An Post Tour of Sligo cycle
- 2,500 people visited the National Aquatic Centre over the 5 days of the Dublin Water Polo Cup
- 2,300 competitors and 800 volunteers took part in 6 National Swimming Championships
- Over 30 countries sent teams or athletes to Ireland for pre-Olympic training
- 58,000 people attend the Phoenix Park Motor Races
- 600 delegates from 100 countries visited Ireland for the International Sailing Federation Conference
- 180 foreign athletes competed in the Irish Badminton Open
- 2,000 seats filled six times at the Electric Ireland Men’s Olympic Hockey Qualifiers at UCD
- €250,000 was the value of the Tour de Burren to the Clare economy
- 100,000 people visited the Dublin Horse Show
- 2,284 bed-nights created by the Great Limerick Run
- 36 extra transatlantic flights were scheduled to cater for the Emerald Isle Classic.



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the **future** of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Sarah O'Connor

Chief Executive Officer,
Federation of Irish Sport



This past year has once again demonstrated the huge potential of sports tourism for this country. The Navy v Notre Dame Game, the Youth Sailing World Championships, the Volvo Ocean Race, the Men's Olympic Hockey Qualifiers were all examples of this phenomenon not to mention the hundreds of thousands of golfers, walkers, cyclists, anglers, triathletes, horse riders and marathon runners who come to Ireland each year to partake in their chosen sport.

The potential is huge and yet unlike many other countries around the world our approach is unsystematic and ad hoc but there is a better way... the sooner we set up a dedicated agency to bid for sports events the better. An example of what is possible is Sport Event Denmark which has an outstanding track record. Denmark is of course like us, a relatively small country with limited facilities but it's a heavyweight in terms of the sporting events it attracts. A joint venture between the Danish government and the country's national sporting organisations, 'Sport Event Denmark', is now so successful it wins 2 out of every 3 events it bids for.

In recent years Sports Event Denmark has facilitated the hosting in Denmark of Olympic and UEFA Congresses, World and European championships across a wide range of sports including cycling, wrestling and football. And the future is bright with major show-jumping, badminton, table tennis, canoeing and archery events all already booked over the next three years.

A similar model could and would deliver for Ireland. We have a strong track record in hosting sport events but there has never been a strategic approach to the bringing in of such events. This is an area where Ireland could excel and deliver a boost to our tourism industry. The international competition is however tough and an organised and professional approach is required.

I would love to think that by 2020 'Sport Bid Ireland' would be established in Ireland ensuring that sport and government were working in tandem to secure a steady stream of appropriate events into Ireland with all the ancillary benefits that this would provide.

Women in Sport

Recent successes are shining the light for women's sport

The success of Katie Taylor in winning Olympic Gold has undoubtedly been the individual sports story of the year. The publicity both during the Olympics and in the months following the Games has been phenomenal. And while the modest Katie would probably not agree Ireland has its first ever female sporting superstar.

What her success has also done is to shine a light on women's sport generally, a light that it has deserved but never received. Ireland has a large number of highly talented sportswomen who deserve the same recognition that their male counterparts receive day in day out. Their achievements are perhaps all the more remarkable given the lack of dedicated facilities, investment and publicity for female sport in general.

Hopefully that will now continue to change and those talented teams and individuals will get the recognition they deserve in the years to come.

Irish women have always played a key role in Ireland's sporting life. 40% of females currently partake in sport and 170,000 women volunteer in Irish sport each year, however, these figures should be even greater. The good news is that year-on-year we are seeing increasing numbers of women participating at all levels of sport. In 2012 we can report:

- 40 of the 148 athletes in receipt of Irish Sports Council Sport are women
- 13.1% of women volunteer in sport each year
- €1.1 million invested by the Irish Sports Council in the Women in Sport participation initiative

- 50% plus of Athletics Ireland members are female
- 728 participant places facilitated in the first ever women's only running series delivered in County Sligo 'Sligo Fit 4 Life Women's 5K Series'
- 40,000 women took part in the Dublin Flora Women's mini marathon
- 2,000 under 14 and under 15 Camogie players participated in five regional intercounty blitzes and one All Ireland blitz
- 3,277 women play senior rugby
- 80 Women took part in the Waterford Women on Wheels Programme
- 300 girls introduced to the fundamentals of golf through 'Girls in Golf' programme in Donegal
- 15% growth in girls club hockey
- 1,100 women participated in the Tipperary Mini Marathon alongside some of Ireland's top runners Catherina McKiernan; Angela McCann and Siobhan Doherty.

What her success has also done is to shine a light on women's sport generally, a light that it has deserved but never received.

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40,000 women took part in the Dublin Flora Women's mini marathon



the *future* of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Sarah Keane

Chief Executive Officer,
Swim Ireland



Today in Ireland we have a host of top class sportswomen right across a whole range of sports. And yet do they get the credit they deserve in terms of sponsorship, facilities, funding or publicity?

The Irish Sports Council has a specific Women in Sport programme, funds female athletes through the carding system and the Irish Times holds the Women in Sport awards. Yet the fact remains that female sportspeople do not get anything like the same recognition as their male counterparts in similar positions.

No doubt Katie Taylor will have an excellent chance of being named Sports Personality of the Year for 2012 given her Olympic Gold Medal but we should not forget she was a three time World Champion already and has not yet received the award.

We are also lucky in Ireland to have a number of really talented and capable women in leading roles in sports administration right around the country. Not to mention the huge female volunteer base that sustains Irish Sport. Again however like the female athletes much of this work goes on under the radar.

And yet all of these girls and women are exceptional and should most certainly be real role models for young Irish girls and women nationwide. 40% of females partake in sport and yet with the right encouragement and focus on some of the fabulous existing role models, this figure could be even more.

Sport is for everyone and that includes women. Women's passion and commitment no matter the nature of their involvement in sport is just as fierce as men's. I would hope that by 2020 female participants in sport feel their contribution is as recognised and as valued as that of men and that girls and women of all ages are encouraged to get involved in sport to the same extent as their male counterparts... truly sport for all.

Sport & Integration

Bringing people together through sport

Sport unites people. There are countless examples of how sport brings people together. The European Union recognises sport as a major tool for promoting social inclusion in European Societies. A number of organisations such as the Laureus Foundation, Beyond Sport and even the UN use sport to achieve social objectives.

Sport changes lives and shifts perception. Nowhere was this more evident than during this year's London Paralympic Games. These were the Games where disability sport went mainstream, where the athletes were finally lauded for their ability rather than for any disability. Perhaps when the dust settles this could well be the lasting legacy of London 2012.

Sport in Ireland recognises the power it has to accelerate the pace of integration in Irish Society. Over the past year alone:

- 739 new athletes took part in Special Olympics programmes adding to the 10,000 athletes already involved in Special Olympics activities
- 1,200 people were involved in Disability Sport Inclusion Programmes in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown
- Over 400 new participants in Paralympics Ireland Talent Search since London 2012
- Deaf Sport Ireland increased their membership by 45% with over 900 involved with the association
- 1,664 older adults took part in Meath LSP's Games for Life and Mature Movers programme
- Irish Blind Sport doubled the number of its members under 30 years of age
- The Irish Paralympic team included 8 members who were visually impaired
- 3 Dun Laoghaire yacht clubs combined to run an access sailing programme for children aged 8 to 17 with physical & sensorial disabilities
- 22 teams & 122 participants took part in the Laois Boccia League up from 19 teams in 2011
- 33 new programmes were initiated and 498 participants took part in Meath LSP's sports programme for people with disabilities
- Ireland finished 3rd at European Transplant & Dialysis Games
- The Camogie Association in conjunction with the Equality Authority developed Camogie For All workshop to adapt the game for people with physical and intellectual disabilities
- 500 young people participated in the Big Issue football street league for homeless people.

Sport in Ireland recognises the power it has to accelerate the pace of integration in Irish Society.

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the *future* of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Liam Harbison

Chief Executive Officer,
Paralympics Ireland



Disability sport has come a long way in Ireland, from where people with disabilities were institutionalised in the early 1900's to being on the podium at the Paralympic Games, recognised as elite athletes by all.

And so to 2020 and what success might look like for Ireland and it's Paralympic athletes.

After the unprecedented success of the London Games, Paralympics Ireland put in place a comprehensive talent search programme with a view to providing support to the affiliate NGBs to grow their participation numbers and create sustainable pathways to elite success for talented athletes.

Coupled with this was growing the capability of new sports to the Paralympic Games programme of Triathlon and Canoeing. These two sports have thrived in the Paralympic family in Ireland and are now firmly established representatives on the Irish Team for Paralympic Games.

With twice as many participants in Paralympic sport since the huge success of London 2012, Ireland now regularly aims to return win a medal haul of 15-20 at each Paralympic Games.

Ireland successfully bid for and hosted the 2019 IPC Swimming World Championships and Darragh McDonald set the sellout crowd alight with his double gold medal winning performance at the National Aquatic Centre. This event had a huge domestic TV audience of 2 million people and was streamed in 80 countries worldwide.

Sport Ireland has been hugely instrumental in our recent success, providing for multi-annual funding which allows us to put in place long term plans to tie in with the Paralympic cycle. At the centre of excellence at Abbotstown our athletes have prepared for the past number of years towards their goal of winning medals at the Paralympic Games in Istanbul.

In 2020 Michael Mc Killop will try to become the first athlete to complete the task of winning a gold medal double at four consecutive Paralympic Games. I have no doubt he will realise his goal and be long remembered as the greatest athlete Ireland has ever produced and his mother remains very proud.

A Bleak Alternative

If we keep cutting funding where will we be in 2020?

The potential of Irish sport is immense. An excellent structure has been put in place. The opportunity is there to build on this and to ensure that Irish sport delivers not alone at elite performance level but in the many other areas where sport can and should be making a difference.

It is our contention that sport can and should also be making a difference in the area of health. We believe that if the power of sport is harnessed correctly to ensure that participation becomes part of everyone's daily lives, that there can and will be a major boost in the health of the nation – with a corresponding major saving in the health budget!

We also believe that a more structured approach to attracting sports tourists can deliver year in year out on a similar scale to the impact of this year's U.S. football game and the Volvo Ocean race.

HOWEVER!

It needs to be pointed out that further cuts in funding, and decisions currently being considered in relation to sponsorship could have an impact that will not alone damage sport in the short term but will seriously compromise it way into the future.

It is a well-documented statistic that investment today is needed to ensure the future of sport a decade down the road. Conversely a lack of investment today will have its most damaging impact not today or tomorrow but eight to ten years down the road. It has to be remembered that funding for sport has already gone down by 22% since 2008 while overall funding including investment in facilities has decreased by 72% in the same period.

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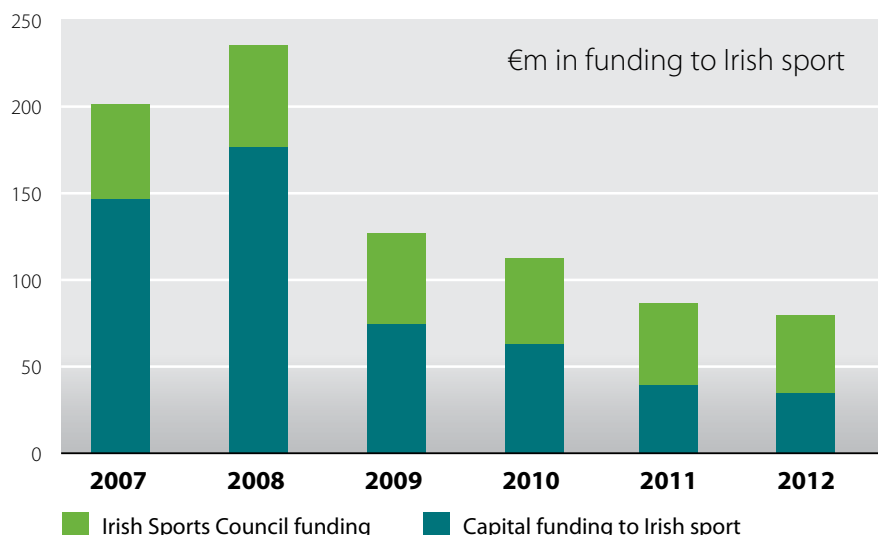
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Sport is, of course, not only reliant on government funding. It also relies to a large extent on sponsorship – and that pot is also dwindling. Currently a number of major Irish professional teams and a number of major events look as if they will go into next season without sponsorship at anything like the level they have previously enjoyed. Some sports are finding it impossible to get any commercial support.

Further cuts in funding, and decisions currently being considered in relation to sponsorship could have an impact that will not alone damage sport in the short term but will seriously compromise it way into the future.

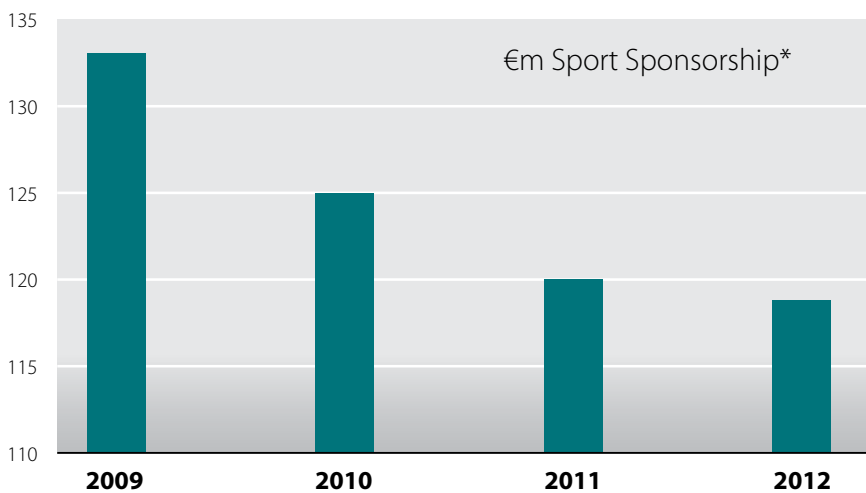
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Funding to Sport in Ireland 2007-2012



There is a choice. Currently it is about funding. The choice and the consequences are very firmly in the hands of the decision makers. They need to choose wisely.

Sport Sponsorship decline in Ireland since 2009



* Figures from Onside Sponsorship

If government funding continues to dwindle and alcohol sponsorship disappears SPORT will be damaged and damaged badly.

It is against this backdrop that the proposal currently being considered by the Government to phase out sponsorship by alcohol brands will have the potential to cause serious damage – quickly. There would appear to be a completely fallacious logic at work that suggests if there was no alcohol sponsorship tomorrow there would be a queue of sponsors lining up to take up this slack. This is not true and it is dangerous thinking.

We need to be putting incentives not barriers in place to encourage private sector support by corporates and individuals into sport. Sport is the only part of the community and voluntary sector which does not enjoy charitable status. Next year the government is to launch a “National Giving Campaign” ...sport would love to be involved but some incentive must be introduced to encourage philanthropy to sport.

If government funding continues to dwindle, alcohol sponsorship disappears and no additional sources of revenue identified SPORT will be damaged and damaged badly. It is also true to say that the damage will first manifest itself in the very areas in which sport needs support – in coaching for children, schools programmes, international coaching expertise, developmental programmes, underage fixtures and tours. Nothing is surer. And once that happens the impact down the road will be lack of international success. No more Katie Taylors, no Olympic medals at all, no more Heineken Cups, no more qualifying for soccer World Cups, no more major golf champions once the current superstars depart the stage.

There is a choice. Currently it is about funding. The choice and the consequences are very firmly in the hands of the decision makers. They need to choose wisely.

View from the Media

John Greene

Sports Editor, The Sunday Independent



Sport matters – maybe not so much in the corridors of power, but certainly in homes and communities all over the country.

Because this is the constituency sport depends on to survive. And as we take more and more money off people, we take another bite out of sport in Ireland. Communities are at the heart of sport. Enthusiasm, goodwill and commitment are what it thrives on but a broke and dispirited community spells danger.

Austerity will destroy this country in so many ways. Just look at sport: The year-on-year cuts bite into everything, from elite level to the grassroots, and there will be lasting effects. The deeper the cuts the longer the damage will be felt. A lot of children will miss out on the benefits of taking part in sport.

Communities are at the heart of sport. Enthusiasm, goodwill and commitment are what it thrives on but a broke and dispirited community spells danger.

When this country had money it was thrown at sport; when the money dried up so too did the grand plans for Irish sport. Except, there was never a proper grand plan, and there still isn't.

Sport has been repeatedly hampered by political interference when what is really needed is for somebody with imagination and understanding to step forward and foster an environment which encourages people to think in the right way.

At a time when resources are scarce the argument for sport can become confused by emotive language - why should money be made available to sport when it might be better used keeping hospital beds open?

The problem with this is twofold. Firstly, the budget for sport in 2012 was about €45m, the health budget was €13.5bn, which should be plenty to run the health service. That it's clearly not is largely because of the system's inefficiencies and lack of flexibility. Secondly, in the last few years there has been a lot of data gathered to show the value of sport, and particularly the value to the State of mass participation, in additional revenue and - far more importantly - in savings on health expenditure.

At a time when resources are scarce the argument for sport can become confused by emotive language - why should money be made available to sport when it might be better used keeping hospital beds open?

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It's not all about the money, it never is, because between 1999 and 2012, we spent somewhere in the region of €1.3bn of taxpayers' money on sport and what have we to show for it? With an enormous capital spend in that time of over €700m there was never any sense of purpose - just trophy projects all over the country, many of which were the product of political favouritism. There was a failure to establish a link between the development of facilities and the promotion of participation. Had development been carried out, say, on a regional basis, we could at least now have a well resourced network of facilities widely available.

It was easy to see then, what is even clearer now: successive governments did not have any sports policy to speak of. There was no coherent national strategy, and there still isn't.

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There has to be some benefits derived for the citizens and the promotion of, and participation in, sport simply must be one of these.

“”

Capital spending doesn't have to be a dirty word just because of our indebtedness. Proper investment can still lead to significant long-term gains and one of these is in the development of facilities and structures which promote participation in sport at the grassroots. At any rate, public money can't just become consumed by debt over the next eight years. There has to be some benefits derived for the citizens and the promotion of, and participation in, sport simply must be one of these.

It would be great, in 2020, to be talking about sport in a real and meaningful way, about how it really matters. And it matters more than how many medals we win at the 2020 Olympics, or who wins that year's All-Irelands, or if Ireland are in Euro '20.

We might even be looking forward to hosting the Rugby World Cup in 2023, with all the economic gains that will bring.

But wouldn't it be great if we were looking at real progress in 2020 – the culmination of a vision born in 2012, with no barriers.

We could have sport as part of the second level curriculum; the nation's citizens could be healthier and better educated as to the benefits of physical activity; we could have a more socially inclusive approach to ensure that the poor and the marginalised have the same access to sport as everyone else; and we could genuinely understand the role sport can play in the national recovery.

Eight years, and counting...

JOHN GREENE

Sports Editor
The Sunday Independent

But wouldn't it be great if we were looking at real progress in 2020 – the culmination of a vision born in 2012, with no barriers.

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Media by Numbers

€6,500,000+

the value of print media coverage of Paralympics

2,200,000+

people in Ireland watched Paralympics on television

1,397,400

tuned into the All Ireland Football final

3,600

hours of sport streamed online by RTE

3,000+

pages of sport in the Irish Times over the last year

2,300

hours of Olympic coverage on RTE

2,000

newspaper articles, radio and TV broadcasts have highlighted the success of the Galway Volvo Ocean Race

1,050

hours of sport on RTE radio

450

hours of Paralympic live streaming available on RTE.ie

200

media members credentialed for the Emerald Isle Classic American Football game

125

countries watched the first All-Irish Heineken Cup final

100%

of U.S. had coverage of Emerald Isle Classic on CBS

80

hours of coverage of the Paralympic Games on Setanta including live coverage for the first time

66

countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa watched the Emerald Isle Classic

Our Best Ambassadors Worldwide



Over the past twelve months Irish sportsmen and sportswomen have competed both as individuals or as members of teams all over the world acting as great ambassadors for Ireland in the process. And once again our supporters have complemented their endeavours bringing colour and passion to events far and wide.

While our football team may not have fared as well as we all would have wished at Euro 2012 the Irish fans left an indelible and incredibly positive legacy for the country. There can be nobody who either attended Euro 2012 or who watched the media television coverage who could not have been aware of the Irish fans – brilliant ambassadors and a great credit to the country.

Only weeks later it was the turn of our boxing supporters who seemed to own the Excel Arena at the London Olympics. Were there any non Irish fans in the Excel the day Katie Taylor won gold?

A snapshot of our sports achievements globally:

	Croatia European Transplant & Dialysis Games
	Israel European Handball Championship Qualification Tournament
	Netherlands European Federation of American Football Atlantic Cup Finals
	Norway Norwegian Challenger Badminton
	England London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
	Russia IFMA Muaythai World Championships
	Sri Lanka ICC World Twenty20 Cricket
	USA ICU Cheerleading World Championships
	Peru ISA Stand-Up Paddle World Championships
	Egypt Davis Cup Tennis
	New Zealand ITU Triathlon World Championship Series Grand Final
	South Africa IRB Junior World Championship Rugby
	China Pentathlon World Cup Final
	Samoa Apia World Cup Judo
	Finland European Athletics Championships
	Sweden World Orienteering Championships
	Hungary European Swimming Championships
	Poland/Ukraine Euro2012
	France 2012 World Figure Skating Championships
	Belgium FIH Olympic Hockey Qualifier

NOR FIN
SWE
DEN



ENG NED
BEL IRL
FRA



POL
AZE
UKR
HUN



MLT
EGY
LBA
RWA
KEN
MOZ
NAM
BOT
RSA



In 2012 our international athletes brought great credit to the country wherever they appeared – like Rob Kearney, European Player of the Year; Donegal and Kilkenny on all-star duty in the U.S.; Katie Taylor at the Olympics; Rory McIlroy, Padraig Harrington, Graeme McDowell and Shane Lowry were all winners on the US PGA or European Tour; Jason Smyth and Michael McKillop double gold on the same evening (beamed to the world by Channel 4). In fact, our athletes competed in 70 different countries around the globe:

America	China	Hungary	Mexico	Singapore
Andorra	Chinese Taipei	India	Monaco	Slovakia
Argentina	Colombia	Iran	Nepal	Slovenia
Australia	Croatia	Israel	Netherlands	South Africa
Austria	Czech republic	Italy	New Zealand	Spain
Azerbaijan	Denmark	Japan	New Zealand	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	England	Kenya	Norway	Sweden
Belgium	Estonia	Korea	Poland	Switzerland
Bermuda	Ethiopia	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal	Taiwan
Brazil	Faroe Islands	Lithuania	Qatar	Thailand
Bulgaria	France	Luxemburg	Romania	Tibet
Cambodia	Germany	Macedonia	Russia	UAE
Canada	Greenland	Malaysia	Scotland	Ukraine
Chile	Hong Kong	Malta	Serbia	Wales

Our country's best ambassadors year in year out – our sportsmen and sportswomen – all helped by the government funding invested in sport over the year. By 2020 perhaps we might see the IDA and Enterprise Ireland organise trade missions around the competition schedules of those great Irish ambassadors

the *future* of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Roddy Carr



Padraig Harrington is undoubtedly one of Ireland's greatest sporting ambassadors. Wherever he goes in the world he is welcomed. He is a wonderful ambassador for the country. Roddy Carr, a fine golfer in his own right and today someone who works right across the golfing industry was at hand recently to see Padraig re-gain his winning ways in Bermuda where he won the annual "Grand Slam of Golf Event". He wrote... in spite of what Padraig has achieved on the golf course it is his contribution off the course that is even more impressive. I was lucky enough to be in Bermuda a few weeks ago with Padraig for the PGA Grand Slam Event. I watched him walk over the magnificent fairways with a broad and engaging smile on his face whatever the shot, good or bad. He won with graciousness and even his opponents seemed happy on the final hole as they congratulated him on his first win for some time. He stood on the green afterwards at the presentation and effortlessly entertained the crowd thanking them for their support and also making the sponsors and local government ministers feel proud for hosting such a spectacular event in Bermuda. The full board of the PGA of America was standing behind him. It was a sight to behold. A true professional at work.

I could not help but feel how lucky it was that Ireland has such a statesman as an ambassador and gentleman representing the country with such open pride on every step of his great career in every corner of the world. I also thought of the influence that he has had as a role model with all our rising stars and superstars. I have attended many awards dinners in recent years for the incredible feats of our golfers and at every one the players, man and woman, reference the positive influence Padraig Harrington has had on them as a role model. Others may go on to achieve more but they have learned well from their role model.

In Bermuda the country honours their legendary sportsmen and women designating them officially as heroes. Statues and roundabouts are built in their honour. Padraig Harrington's legacy will be more than the titles and majors he has won in his career. It will be the profound influence he has had on future generations and also happily the wonderful work he has done in promoting Ireland all over the world

Creating a Return on the Taxpayers Investment

In 2012, the Irish Sports Council distributed €36 million in core, high performance and women in sport grants to more than 100 of Ireland's National Sporting Organisations and Local Sports Partnerships. We know that sport generates a return of €149 on every €100 invested but set out below is just some of the dividend sport has delivered in real terms during 2012.

Angling Council of Ireland

www.anglingcouncilireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €14,625

Highlight 2012: Bronze medal by Team Ireland in a close fought finish at the World Shore Angling Championships in Holland

Archery Ireland

www.archery.ie

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €36,000

Highlight 2012: 90 archers took part in the All-Ireland Field Archery Championships, while over 100 competed in the National Indoor Championships

Athletics Ireland

www.athleticsireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €942,000

High Performance Funding - €885,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €536,000

Women in Sport Funding - €45,000

Highlight 2012: A 15% increase in Fit4Life clubs around the country which give people the opportunity to get fit and enjoy walking and running in structured environment

Vision 2020: Athletics Ireland will be a dynamic and well structured organisation with 100,000 members with regional and national programmes geared towards all levels of participation

Australian Rules Football League of Ireland

www.arfli.com

Highlight 2012: Ireland cemented their place as the number one in European Australian Rules Football with victory in the 9-a-side Euro Cup

Vision 2020: ARFLI will expand to new centres around the country, while Ireland will have its own permanent home for Aussie Rules where national and international matches can be played

Badminton Ireland

www.badmintonireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €326,529

High Performance Funding - €80,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €58,000

Women in Sport Funding - €40,000

Highlight 2012: Badminton Ireland's Chloe Magee and Scott Evans qualified for the London 2012 Olympic Games with both reaching the last 24

Vision 2020: Badminton Ireland will have a permanent training centre in Dublin which will be the base for full time training for a high performance squad of eight, a full time Performance Director and assistant coach

Basketball Ireland

www.basketballireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €590,349

Women in Sport Funding - €127,000

Highlight 2012: Capacity crowds and live broadcasts by Setanta Sports at the National League and Cup Finals brought top quality Irish Basketball to people all over the country

Vision 2020: Basketball Ireland's international programmes will be re-engaged with success on the European stage, while participation in the sport continues to increase at all levels and continues to grow commercially and attract sponsors

Baton Twirling Association of Ireland

www.btsai.ie

Core Grant Funding - €13,503

Women in Sport Funding - €3,600

Highlight 2012: David Doynes was the leading light for Irish at the WBTF International Cup in Florida, returning with two bronze medals

Vision 2020: Baton Twirling Sport Association of Ireland will have increased opportunities for young people to participate in baton twirling

Bowling League of Ireland

www.irishlawnbowls.ie

Core Grant Funding - €25,350

Highlight 2012: Ireland took second place overall in the British Isles Championships in Wales, including a win for Paul Daly in the singles competition

Camogie Association

www.camogie.ie

Core Grant Funding - €396,168

Highlight 2012: 750 girls from 48 clubs played in Croke Park at a day long festival of Camogie

Vision 2020: Every girl will have the opportunity to play Camogie by the time they leave primary school in a meaningful way in a safe and learning environment

Canoeing Ireland

www.irishcanoeunion.com

Core Funding - €243,449

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €76,000

Highlight 2012: The International Liffey Descent formed part of the International Canoe Federation Rough Water World series

Vision 2020: There will be mass participation in the sport of canoeing, and a successful high performance programme with longevity in place

Cerebral Palsy Sport Ireland

www.cpsi.ie/

Core Grant Funding - €56,856

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €78,000

Highlight 2012: 9 Cerebral Palsy Sport athletes qualified for the London 2012 Paralympic Games

Vision 2020: All athletes will be enabled to participate in any sport at a level of their choosing

Colleges and Universities Sports Association of Ireland

www.cusai.ie

Core Grant Funding: €60,000

Highlight 2012: A silver medal for Claire Lambe at the World University Rowing Championships in Russia and a bronze for the Men's Golf Team at the World University Golf Championships in the Czech Republic marked a great year for CUSAI on the international stage

Vision 2020: A significant majority of the population, including third level communities, will meet the recommended daily physical activity guidelines

Community Games

www.communitygames.ie

Core Grant Funding - €269,610

Highlight 2012: Over 200,000 children from all over Ireland took part in the Community Games, supported by over 20,000 volunteers

Cricket Ireland

www.cricketireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €368,825

High Performance Funding - €70,000

Highlight 2012: Irish Senior Men's team bypass cricketing giants Australia at one point reaching 8th in the T20 world rankings

Vision 2020: The Irish men's cricket team will progress to the top tier in international cricket with regular matches at home and abroad in front of at least 10,000 spectators

Croquet Association of Ireland

www.croquetireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €5,472

Highlight 2012: Wicklow's Andrew Johnston became the third Irishman to win the European Croquet Championships

Cycling Ireland

www.cyclingireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €314,851

Women in Sport Funding - €6,000

High Performance Funding - €260,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €296,000

Highlight 2012: Success in growing grassroots was mirrored with success at high performance level with five Paralympic medals and Ireland's first World Senior Track Medal won in Melbourne by Caroline Ryan

Vision 2020: A clear pathway for children from schoolyard to podium will exist, with the necessary facilities, coaches, services and supported volunteer network through higher prioritised government funding levels

Deaf Sports Ireland

www.deafsportsireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €63,089

Highlight 2012: The rebrand of Deaf Sport Ireland from the Irish Deaf Sports Association has introduced a new management structure and constitution to service the needs of the membership which has seen a 45% increase

Vision 2020: The social and community benefits of Deaf/Hard of Hearing participation in sport from grassroots to international level will develop as DSI membership continues to grow

Football Association of Ireland

www.fai.ie

Grant Funding - €2,840,000

Women in Sport Funding - €150,000

Highlight 2012: The Republic of Ireland men's side reached the UEFA European Championship finals for the first time since 1988

GAA Handball Ireland

www.gaahandball.ie

Core Grant Funding - €91,650

Women in Sport Funding - €17,000

Highlight 2012: Over 2,000 players contested the World Handball Championships hosted by GAA Handball Ireland at Citywest where over 3,000 fans packed into arena for the event

Gaelic Athletic Association

www.gaa.ie

Grant Funding - €2,700,000

Highlight 2012: 81,071 children took part in GAA Cúl Camps across Ireland, while 8,100 primary school teams partook in games in 2012

Golfing Union of Ireland

www.gui.ie

Core Grant Funding - €148,298

High Performance Funding - €280,000

Team Ireland Golf Trust Funding - €139,000

Highlight 2012: Irish Amateur Champion Alan Dunbar capped an impressive individual year by lifting the British Amateur title and becoming one of only two amateur golfers to play in this year's Open Championship at Royal Lytham

Gymnastics Ireland

www.gymnasticsireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €234,199

Women in Sport Funding - €70,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €12,000

Highlight 2012: A growth in membership to 14,000, Kieran Behan's qualification for the London 2012 Olympic Games and the launch of GymEDGE – a gymnastic based sports coach development tool for any coach from any sport

Vision 2020: Gymnastics Ireland will be a securely financed, well-resourced and supported NGB delivering a wide range of services and events for anyone interested in participation in Gymnastics in Ireland

Horse Sport Ireland

www.horsesportireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €786,575

High Performance Funding - €500,000

Highlight 2012: A capacity crowd witnessed Ireland win the Aga Khan Trophy at the Dublin Horse Show for the first time in eight years

Horseshoe Pitchers Association of Ireland

Core Grant Funding - €3,900

Highlight 2012: Four new clubs established and more than fifty competitions held around the country throughout 2012

Ice Skating Association of Ireland

www.isai.ie

Highlight 2012: We were successful in our bid to bring the 2014 International Skating Congress to Ireland which has the potential to generate €1 million for the Irish economy

Vision 2020: Publicly funded ice skating facilities will remove the need for Irish Skaters to travel abroad to train and participate in ice skating

Irish Amateur Boxing Association

www.iaba.ie

Core Grant Funding - €352,300

High Performance Funding - €755,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €463,000

Highlight 2012: Four medals including gold, silver and two bronze capped an impressive London 2012 Olympic Games for Irish Boxing

Vision 2020: Increased participation amongst young males and females coupled with more youth international competition and increased funding for non-carded boxers and voluntary coaches will see Ireland continue to produce world class boxers

Irish Fencing Federation

www.irishfencing.net

Core Grant Funding - €22,264

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €12,000

Irish Amateur Wrestling Association

www.irishwrestling.org

Core Grant Funding - €15,219

High Performance Funding - €5,500

Highlight 2012: Alex Dolly claimed 9th place out of 48 competitors in the 84-kilo weight class at the FILA Wrestling World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey

the future of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Finbarr Kirwan

Director of High Performance,
Irish Sports Council



2012 was a remarkable year for Irish sport and the Irish high performance system is now demonstrating a real return on investment. It is showing the value of consistent investment over the long term. Between 2009 and 2012 it is likely that over 130 podium places will have been achieved in Irish Sports Council supported programmes in international championships. This compares to 70 podium places achieved over the four years of the Beijing cycle (2005 to 2008).

Progress is being achieved through a collaborative approach which has evolved over the past decade. This is based on the recognition by all agencies of the role and functions of the others. The system over the next decade will continue to be driven by consistent investment in targeted governing bodies, performance leadership from Performance Directors and coaches and quality service provision from the Institute of Sport.

It is intended that this collaborative approach will continue for the next Quadrennial Cycle to Rio 2016 and beyond to 2020. Strong functioning relationships with the Olympic Council and Paralympics Ireland will also be vital as the system evolves and much will be taken from the experiences at the London Games.

A generation of Irish athletes is now emerging from an Irish based system which has developed over the last number of years. The challenge for the future is to ensure that this system continues to evolve and accelerate in line with and, ultimately beyond, our international competitors. This will ensure that Irish athletes deliver podium performances at major championships on a repeatable and consistent basis.

Irish American Football Association

www.americanfootball.ie

Core Grant Funding - €22,000

Women in Sport Funding - €3,000

Highlight 2012: The IFAFA's partnership with South Dublin Tourism and South Dublin County Council looks set to attract major American Football games to Tallaght Stadium during 2013 as part of The Gathering

Vision 2020: The IFAFA will have a strong participation at all levels from young children to adulthood. This will include a Primary Schools Flag Football Programme, a large network of youth kitted teams, a strong IAFL with 20+ teams playing a good standard of competitive American football and a regular series of adult flag tournaments

Irish Blind Sports Association

www.ibsports.ie

Core Grant Funding - €36,894

Highlight 2012: A new three year strategic plan was launched and accompanied by a doubling in the number of members under 30

Vision 2020: A co-ordinator in each province will oversee the development of sports for Visually Impaired participants and provide support to all PE teachers and sports coaches, who will be fully trained and equipped to include Visually Impaired participants

Irish Cheersport Association

www.irishcheersport.wix.com

Highlight 2012: Team Ireland made their mark on the international stage placing 10th at the World Cheerleading Championships Senior Elite and 3rd in Europe

Vision 2020: All athletes will have the luxury of training in full size heated gyms. Recreational and competitive cheer and dance in schools and universities for both males and females will take place on a daily basis

Irish Clay Pigeon Shooting Association

www.icpsa.ie

Core Grant Funding - €34,125

High Performance Funding - €20,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €40,000

Highlight 2012: Ireland Teams and individual shooters dominated the European DTL Championships

Irish Hockey Association

www.hockey.ie

Core Grant Funding - €233,726

High Performance Funding - €450,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €60,000

Women in Sport Funding - €40,000

Highlight 2012: Both the Irish men's and women's teams came within a match of reaching London 2012

Vision 2020: With the senior sides having competed at the 2016 Olympic Games, the game will continue to grow at grassroots level on top quality pitches

Irish Ice Hockey Association

www.iiha.org

Highlight 2012: Gareth Roberts was named best forward of the tournament as Ireland finished 4th at the IIHF World Championship Division III in Turkey

Irish Judo Association

www.irishjudoassociation.ie

Core Grant Funding - €72,607

High Performance Funding - €10,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €12,000

Highlight 2012: Ireland's Lisa Kearney made history by becoming the first Irish female Judoka to qualify for an Olympic Games

Vision 2020: A permanent Dojo (training centre) will be in place in all 32 counties and Judo will no longer have the tag of a 'minority sport'

Irish Kidney Association

www.ika.ie

Highlight 2012: Transplant Team Ireland came in 3rd out of 28 countries in the 7th European Transplant & Dialysis Games which were held in Zagreb, Croatia

Vision 2020: A reliable funding stream will subsidise the involvement of Irish competitors in World and European Competitions, and grow the domestic programme to a point where it can be regionalised

Irish Ladies Golf Union

www.ilgu.ie

Core Grant Funding - €44,000

High Performance Funding - €115,000

Women in Sport Funding - €15,000

Irish Martial Arts Commission

www.martialarts.ie

Core Grant Funding - €23,059

Highlight 2012: 2,500 competitors from 37 countries took part in the Irish Kickboxing Open at Citywest in Dublin

Vision 2020: There will be an integrated athlete support and development platform for high performers in Martial Arts. Transparent and effective support and funding mechanisms will be underpinned by accountability and value for money initiatives and there will be greater understanding of the social and cultural benefits of sport and recreation to Ireland

Irish Olympic Handball Association

www.olympichandball.org

Core Grant Funding - €35,712

Women in Sport Funding - €6,000

Highlight 2012: The establishment of the High Performance Unit saw high profile names join the IOHA: Eddie O'Sullivan, former Irish Rugby coach, Toni Gerona, FC Barcelona Coach, David Matthews, dual Olympian and Cork Hurling fitness coach and Stephen McIvor, Sports Psychologist helped the Irish mens team move from 50th to 40th in the world rankings

Vision 2020: Olympic Handball will be the number one indoor team sport in Ireland and a core part of the PE curriculum in schools. An Irish team will compete in the Olympic Games and Olympic Handball will have its own arena in Dublin to host international events

Irish Rugby Football Union

www.irishrugby.ie

Grant Funding - €2,490,000

Women in Sport Funding - €120,000

Highlight 2012: Leinster Rugby claimed their third Heineken Cup in four years, beating their Irish rivals Ulster Rugby in the 2012 final

Vision 2020: Greater funding for facilities will address the potential problem of coping with the increasing number of young players who want to play rugby. Funding will also allow the implementation of a world-class women's 7s programme to run alongside other participation programmes

Irish Sailing Association

www.sailing.ie

Core Grant Funding - €447,313

High Performance Funding - €600,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €220,000

Women in Sport Funding - €21,000

Highlight 2012: Dublin Bay became the epicentre of youth sailing for seven days as the International Sailing Federation Youth World Sailing Championships saw 350 sailors from 63 nations take to Irish waters in July

Vision 2020: Sailing will be a sport accessible to all and no longer be considered a 'minority sport' in Ireland

Irish Surfing Association

www.isasurf.ie

Core Grant Funding - €70,200

Women in Sport Funding - €10,000

Highlight 2012: Ireland finished in a respectable 11th place at the inaugural World Stand Up Paddle Championships which were held in Peru

Vision 2020: Funding for sport in Ireland will reflect its important role in society

Irish Squash

www.irishsquash.com

Core Grant Funding - €167,400

Women in Sport Funding - €12,000

Highlight 2012: Arthur Gaskin claimed the first PSA World Tour title of his career when he won the QSF PSA Challenger 2012 in Qatar

Irish Table Tennis Association

www.irishtabletennis.com

Core Grant Funding - €103,990

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €6,000

Women in Sport Funding - €37,000

Highlight 2012: Ireland took Gold in the Boys & Girls event as well as Individual Gold in the Girls event at the Primary Schools 6 Nations International event; evidence that ITTA's Player Pathway is working at the early stages of international competition

Vision 2020: The ITTA office will be based at a fully owned National Table Tennis Centre with playing space for 20 courts, spectator facilities, storage facilities and catering facilities – which will act as a hub for all national events and be capable of hosting European and World events

Irish Taekwondo Union

www.taekwondoireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €10,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €28,000

Highlight 2012: Three Irish Taekwondo Union athletes returned home from the Swedish Open with medals, including a Gold for Andy Power in the Cadet 44kg division

Irish Ten Pin Bowling Association

www.tenpinireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €25,000

Highlight 2012: Ireland's Paul Stott Jr followed up his first European Tour win in Bucharest taking the Malta Open Championship title

Vision 2020: Bowling will be recognised as a healthy and clean sporting and recreational activity that is family oriented, spanning the generations and caters for able-bodied and people with a disability alike

Irish Tug-of-War Association

www.irishtugofwar.com

Core Grant Funding - €22,425

Highlight 2012: Ireland's men claimed the World Outdoor 700kg Championship and the World Indoor 680kg Championship

Vision 2020: Participation amongst youth and women will further increase, as will media coverage of the sport in Ireland

Irish Underwater Council

www.diving.ie

Core Grant Funding - €57,647

Highlight 2012: The Irish Underwater Council launched a new digital media strategy including the unveiling of a brand new website, while members can now avail of underwater photography courses

Vision 2020: Diving will be at the forefront of adventure sports in Ireland, setting the standard for sport leadership and participation

Irish Water Safety

www.iws.ie

Highlight 2012: Ireland won Gold in the team beach event along with four other medals at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships in Jönköping, Sweden breaking seven national records along the way

Irish Wheelchair Association – Sport

www.iwasport.com

Core Grant Funding - €248,924

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €48,000

Highlight 2012: Irish Wheelchair Association members made up the nucleus of the Irish team for the London 2012 Paralympic Games with 22 representatives on the 49 strong team

Vision 2020: Programmes for people with a physical or sensory disability will be included in the operational plans of all NGBs and all coaching programmes and courses will include modules specific to disability sport

Ladies Gaelic Football

www.ladiesgaelic.ie

Core Grant Funding - €402,591

Highlight 2012: The Gaelic4Mothers & Others initiative introduced nearly 1,000 mothers and other women to playing Ladies Gaelic Football in an innovative way

Motorcycling Union of Ireland

www.motorcycling-ireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €69,597

Highlight 2012: A sixth place finish for Team Ireland at the World Tour de Nations was backed up with further international success for Jack Kennedy, Wayne Kirwan, Sean Henry, Cormac Conroy and Eugene Laverty

Vision 2020: Motorcycling Union of Ireland competitors will have carded high performance riders who will compete regularly on the international stage

Motorsport Ireland

www.motorsportireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €152,318

Highlight 2012: Craig Breen won the S2000 World Rally Championship, while Keith Cronin claimed the 2012 British Rally Championship

Vision 2020: Motorsport Ireland will have its own motorsport facility and will host an annual round of the World Rally Championship

Mountaineering Ireland

www.mountaineering.ie

Core Grant Funding - €200,999

Women in Sport Funding - €10,000

Highlight 2012: Irish climber Dominic Burns won the European Youth Bouldering Cup and was ranked number one in the world

Vision 2020: Sport will be a core subject through to Leaving Certificate, where participants will be embedded in a culture of lifelong participation whereby daily sport/recreation activity is expected by society and participants take responsibility for themselves, and learn how to minimise their impact on the natural environment

National Aero Club of Ireland

www.aeroclub.ie

Highlight 2012: 'Fast Air', Ireland's representatives at the Dubai International Parachuting Championship, finished in 7th place in 4-way formation skydiving competition

National Target Shooting Association

www.targetshooting.ie

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €12,000

Highlight 2012: Seán Baldwin became Ireland's first representative to compete in shooting disciplines at a Paralympic Games when he took part in the Air Rifle and Cartridge Rifle at London 2012

Irish Orienteering Association

www.orienteering.ie

Core Grant Funding - €46,752

Highlight 2012: Nick Simonin came in 27th in the Sprint at the World Orienteering Championships, while Jonathan Quinn finished in 15th place in M16 in the Sprint race at European Youth Orienteering Championships

Vision 2020: The Irish Orienteering Association will see numbers taking part in orienteering across the country grow by 30%

Paralympics Ireland

www.paralympics.ie

High Performance Funding - €660,000

Highlight 2012: It was the most successful Paralympic Games for Team Ireland who returned home with 16 medals, 8 of which were gold

Vision 2020: Twice as many people partake in Paralympic Sport as did in 2012

Pentathlon Ireland

www.pentathlon.ie

High Performance Funding - €80,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €12,000

Highlight 2012: Irish pentathletes Natalya Coyle and Arthur Lanigan O'Keeffe put in a fantastic performance at the London 2012 Olympic Games finishing in 9th and 25th place respectively.

Vision 2020: With a maximum number of athletes qualified for the 2020 Olympic Games, Ireland will emerge with two medals, while membership will grow to 5,000 and will be backed up by a fully staffed NGB and High Performance Unit, and full training and competition facilities

the future of Irish Sport

Vision 2020

Barry O'Brien

Chief Executive Officer,
National Sports Campus
Development Authority



Irish Sport has finally got a permanent home in Abbotstown. In excess of 30 sports have a continuous presence on Campus and use the facilities on a regular basis. This has allowed the Campus to provide a nurturing environment for our athletes of all abilities. Over 1.5million people from the local community and beyond use the Campus facilities each year.

By 2020 a fully -functioning National Sports Campus will be a beacon within Ireland's national sporting infrastructure. As another Olympic & Paralympic Games approach, the Campus will have accommodated and supported most of our athletes participating in those Games to do the vast majority of their training at home here in Ireland.

In addition, the community use of multi-sport pitches and other facilities has set the example for the sharing of sports facilities right around the country. The Campus model of combining public access with elite facilities is now being replicated on a smaller scale throughout the country.

The success of the National Indoor Training Centre encouraged the Government to augment the existing sports facilities at the Campus with the National Cycling Velodrome due to be completed later this year and an Ice Rink for Ice Hockey and Skating etc. which will follow soon.

Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland

www.ppu.ie

Core Grant Funding - €65,021

Highlight 2012: The Irish team repeated their triumph of 2008 by retaining the World Cup on home soil, beating off competition from Switzerland, Holland and Australia en route

Vision 2020: 100% growth in PPUI membership will be experienced, with an even dispersion of members throughout the country, all playing at top quality facilities

Racquetball Association of Ireland

www.racquetball-ireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €15,407

Highlight 2012: Donna Ryder finished the season as the top ranked female in Europe, while Noel O'Callaghan was number two on the men's tour

ROI Snooker & Billiards Association

www.ribsa.ie

Core Grant Funding - €66,500

Highlight 2012: The Irish Masters team reached the semi-final of the European Team Championship, while the senior team reached the last 16 of the main competition

Rowing Ireland

www.iaru.ie

Core Grant Funding - €218,698

High Performance Funding - €490,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €120,000

Highlight 2012: On the international scene, Rowing Ireland qualified a boat for the London 2012 Olympic Games and claimed a silver medal at the World Student Games, while domestically sponsorship for both the Grand League (eFlow) and National Rowing Championships (Supervalu) was secured

Vision 2020: A larger number of clubs with strong competitive adult rowing will see a number of crews compete at the 2020 Olympic Games, with at least two boats in A finals and one claiming a medal

Special Olympics Ireland

www.specialolympics.ie

Core Grant Funding - €1,200,000

Highlight 2012: Special Olympics Ireland completed a programme on Health Promotion for people with Intellectual Disabilities which was used to pilot and evaluate a user-friendly Health Promotion resource pack which could be delivered in community based Special Olympics clubs and Intellectual Disability Services

Vision 2020: Participation of people with an intellectual disability in sport will rise to 50% from the current figure of 33%

Swim Ireland

www.swimireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €862,555

High Performance Funding - €555,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €172,000

Women in Sport Funding - €50,000

Highlight 2012: 17 year old swimmer Syerika McMahon took the silver medal in the 50m Breaststroke at the European Championships in Hungary

Vision 2020: Every child will be able to swim 25 meters in a swimming pool upon leaving primary school, while a cohesive campaign involving Swim Ireland, local authorities, private and public pools and government will be in place in place to allow for maximum participation in swimming regardless of area, background and cost

Tennis Ireland

www.tennisireland.ie

Core Grant Funding - €366,840

High Performance Funding - €180,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €12,000

Highlight 2012: The Irish Ladies team secured three wins in this year's FED Cup in Egypt, beating Malta, Armenia and Kenya, while the men secured a win over Egypt in the Davis Cup

Triathlon Ireland

www.triathlonireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €97,500

High Performance Funding - €245,000

Direct Athlete Investment Funding - €32,000

Women in Sport Funding - €15,000

Highlight 2012: Gavin Noble, the first male triathlete to compete for Ireland at the Olympic Games, achieved Ireland's best ever Olympic result by finishing in 23rd place

Vision 2020: 25,000 members of Triathlon Ireland will be affiliated to 100 clubs and will participate in 200 TI sanctioned events. Dublin and Belfast will host an International Triathlon Union World Series Event or European Championship race each year

Volleyball Ireland

www.volleyballireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €189,709

Women in Sport Funding - €60,000

Highlight 2012: The continued growth of Volleyball at school level has been supported by the development of a volleyball sports education module and pack for use by sports teachers in conjunction with the Physical Education Association of Ireland

Vision 2020: Several regional recreational and competition areas will feed in to Volleyball Ireland National Leagues, while sitting volleyball will be part of the Irish sport family

Weightlifting Ireland

www.weightliftingireland.com

Core Grant Funding - €20,000

Highlight 2012: Irish lifter Laurence McConnell claimed gold medals at World and European Masters Weightlifting Championships

Vision 2020: Weightlifting will be a mid-ranked sport among the 60+ sports which receive annual funding from the Irish Sports Council

Active Donegal

www.activedonegal.com

Highlight 2012: 1,200 participants from six communities took part in the Innovative Programme of Sport and Recreation displaying the important role sport plays in community inclusion

Vision 2020: We will live in a society that provides young people with a positive experience of sport, regardless of ability, and where inclusion is the norm and competition is relevant and age proportionate

Cavan Local Sports Partnership

www.cavansportspartnership.ie

Highlight 2012: The importance of healthy and balanced lifestyle was promoted to 176 people as part of Fitwise, an 8 week physical activity and healthy eating programme

Vision 2020: Cavan will be a county where sport is not only competitive and visible but accessible to all people

Clare Sports Partnership

www.claresportspartnership.ie

Highlight 2012: Cycling is on the up in the home of the Tour de Burren with twelve clubs now registered in the county, while underage basketball is experiencing similar growth with nine new clubs

Vision 2020: Multi-sport complexes will be in use for the benefit of all communities

Cork Sports Partnership

www.corksports.ie

Highlight 2012: Over 400 participants took to the roads and streets of Cork in June of this year for the annual National Bike Week, with over 10 events taking place throughout Cork City and County

County Carlow Local Sports Partnership

www.carlowsports.ie

Highlight 2012: Over 400 people took to the Carlow-Graigecullen Sli na Slánte 5K walking route as part of the Operation Transformation walk

County Limerick Local Sports Partnership

www.clsp.ie

Highlight 2012: Through targeted programmes County Limerick Local Sports Partnership had direct contact with 5,693 participants from key target groups; disadvantaged youth, older adults, travellers, young people, teenage girls and mothers

Vision 2020: The presence of a Sports Development Officer on the ground will promote physical activity and provide information on diet and nutrition

Dublin City Sports Network

www.dublincity.ie

Highlight 2012: 16,000 people of all ages and abilities have taken part in Sport & Physical Activity programmes run throughout Dublin City by Sport & Recreation Officers in 2012

Vision 2020: Dublin City will have a dedicated sports hub which will encompass green space and indoor facilities to run sports events, launches and sport promotion, while cleaner waterways will encourage more people to use the River Liffey and Canals for water sport

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership

www.dlrspartnership.ie

Highlight 2012: The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Community 5K held in Kilbogget park attracted 420 people of all ages and abilities from the all parts of the county

Fingal Sports Office

www.fingalsports.ie

Highlight 2012: The Fingal Future Olympians Primary School competition saw in excess of 1,000 children participate in six different sports, culminating in a finals day where 300 children battled it out to be crowned Fingal's Future Olympians

Vision 2020: Resources will be increased including the introduction of a Sports Inclusion and Development Officer, while at government level, sport will have the same recognition as health on the agenda

Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership

www.kerrylsp.ie

Highlight 2012: The Let's Get Kerry Walking Campaign and Irish Heart Foundation Community Walking Leader training empowered people in local communities to lead out walks and aided more people to get walking more often

Vision 2020: There will be greater collaboration between National Governing Bodies of Sport and the Local Sports Partnership network, particularly in the area of participation

Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership

www.kilkenny.ie

Highlight 2012: The Kilkenny Walking Festival included a programme of over 50 events for families, walkers and holiday makers. The festival was a collaboration between Trail Kilkenny, the Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership

Kildare Sports Partnership

www.kildare.ie

Highlight 2012: The launch of a new strategic plan which will co-ordinate and promote participation in sport and physical activity in Kildare over the next five years

Laois Sports Partnership

www.laoissports.ie

Highlight 2012: Laois Sports Partnership led by example in 2012 by being named 'Best Small Organisation' in the Irish Sports Council Challenge and used the win as leverage to encourage other Laois businesses to follow suit and get active

Vision 2020: Infrastructure in the local towns and villages will be improved to encourage more cyclists and walkers to become more active on a daily basis

Leitrim Sports

www.leitrimsports.ie

Highlight 2012: 770 runners participated in the Carrick 10k, which took place around the beautiful scenic route of Carrick-on-Shannon

Vision 2020: There will be a vast improvement in the sporting facilities in Leitrim, where clubs will have a permanent home which will ensure long term sustainability

Limerick City Local Sports Partnership

www.limerickcitysports.ie

Highlight 2012: Limerick City Sports Partnership's youth programmes reached over 3,000 children between in-school and after school programmes

Vision 2020: Local Sports Partnerships will continue to connect with people at a local level to create a healthier more active community

Louth Local Sports Partnership

www.louthlsp.ie

Highlight 2012: Over 2,200 people got on their bike in County Louth as part of Bike Week 2012, including over 500 children who took part in schools events

Mayo Sports Partnership

www.mayosports.ie

Highlight 2012: The month long Mayo in Motion initiative promoted walking and cycling as a means of physical recreation which can be enjoyed by anybody through 30 community walks, 16 cycling events, walking festivals and Nordic walking demonstrations

Meath Local Sports Partnerships

www.meathsports.ie

Highlight 2012: The expansion of the Games for Life and Mature Movers programmes saw 1664 older adults take part in physical activity on a weekly basis

Vision 2020: Shared resources; integrated timetables; agreed policies and a structured approach by government agencies and NGBs will form a co-ordinated approach to the development of sport

Monaghan Local Sports Partnership

www.monaghansports.ie

Highlight 2012: 850 people were encouraged to get out and get active as part of Monaghan Walking Weekend 2012

Vision 2020: Monaghan Local Sports Partnership will support minority sports clubs and work with NGBs to deliver more education and training opportunities for coaches and volunteers throughout the county

North Tipperary Sports Partnership

www.ntsps.ie

Highlight 2012: Thurles was designated European Town of Sport for 2012, making it the first town in Ireland to achieve this status. A host of sporting events took place including: Thurles Sarsfields International Hurling Festival, European Athletics Jamboree, Schools Activ8 Programme, Girls'n Golf Programme & Thurles Tower 10k

Vision 2020: Primary schools will be in a position to offer a wide selection of sports to children without having to worry about the cost or funding as the sporting experience a child has in primary school is fundamental to their interest and participation in sport in later life

Offaly Sports Partnership

www.offalysports.ie

Highlight 2012: The Offaly Sports Partnership in conjunction with Offaly County Council, the HSE, An Taisce and Bord na Mona promoted a range of cycling events as part of Bike Week 2012 where 350 people of all ages took part

Vision 2020: All children will be afforded the opportunity to learn to swim two lengths of a 25 meter pool before, learn basic gymnastics and the fundamentals of athletics before leaving primary school

Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership

www.sligosportandrecreation.ie

Highlight 2012: 2,110 cyclists aged between 9 and 70 years+ got on their bikes and took part in the 2012 An Post Tour of Sligo

Vision 2020: Physical activity will be firmly established as a key opportunity in the promotion of health and well being and in minimising illness, with LSP and Local Primary Care Centres working in partnership

South Dublin County Local Sports Partnership

www.sdclsp.ie

Highlight 2012: 600 people took part in three Ramble Aid 5K events in local parks in South Dublin County to raise vital funds for the purchase of defibrillators for local clubs

Vision 2020: There will be more freedom to take on staff to properly address certain areas including the unemployed sector, physical activity programmes in Community Centres, communications and events

South Tipperary Sports Partnership

www.stsps.ie

Highlight 2012: Irish cycling champions Matt Brammier joined over 250 primary school children on a Cycling Skills Day as part of Bike Week 2012 – overall 1,000 participated in the Safer Cycling programme in south Tipperary

Vision 2020: Safe, accessible walking and cycling routes will be further developed, along with more water based activities on the River Suir

Waterford Sports Partnership

www.waterfordsportspartnership.ie

Highlight 2012: The Waterford Women on Wheels Programme gave over 80 women a chance to take part in workshops including bike maintenance, bike skills, nutrition and six weekly training spins culminating in the 50km Kelly Cruise

Vision 2020: Sport will be considered by all to be a protected area and prominence given to its impact on health and wellbeing

Westmeath Sports Partnership

www.westmeathsports.ie

Highlight 2012: The National Criterium Championships formed part of 'Destination Sport Mullingar', an event which showcased over 25 sports over a four day period

Vision 2020: Sport will be seamless with a strong participant centred ethos from schools, NGBs and LSPs, and local authorities with the right infrastructure in place to make sport and physical activity the easy option as well as the right option

Sports Active Wexford

www.wexford.ie

Highlight 2012: The promotion of the natural environment with a focus on sports tourism and the development of Walking Programmes and trails have seen an increase in the number of registered walking groups in Wexford

Vision 2020: There will be closer relationships with NGB's elite athletes and a joined up thinking across Ireland on the importance of the legacy of sport and physical activity

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership

www.wicklowlsp.ie

Highlight 2012: Wicklow Local Sports Partnership regenerated after a period of inactivity and is continuing its role of encouraging and facilitating participation and physical activity in the wider community

Vision 2020: Wicklow will facilitate a high volume of annual mass participation events that will attract high attendance and media attention nationwide

Vision 2020

How do we get there?

If we are to realise our vision of sport improving Irish society and playing a much richer part in Irish people's lives then the kind of bricks that will be needed to build the foundation for that future must include:

- **Sport recognised by all Government Departments** as a cornerstone for the improvement Irish Society
- Development of a **Masterplan for Irish Sport** tying in all areas of government that impact on sport including health, finance, environment, planning, transport, education and tourism
- **No further reductions in government funding to Irish Sport** in particular, the current funding as distributed through the Irish Sports Council
- **Co-operation between all government departments** that have a role in sport
- **Completion of the National Sports Campus** at Blanchardstown and the development of regional multi-sport facilities
- All taxpayers monies spent by other areas of government but impacting on sport is done in **consultation and partnership** with sport
- **Physical Education at the heart of education** of all Ireland's children from junior infants to Leaving Certificate
- Consultation with sport to ensure the **strategic use of monies** available through the Sports Capital Programme
- **Multi-Annual Funding** to facilitate strategic planning and improved value for money
- Identification of **sustainable government funding stream**, for sport such as dedicated lottery funding, betting tax etc.
- **VAT to be recoverable** by Sporting Bodies
- Establishment of a **dedicated sports bidding entity**
- Regular **top quality quantitative and qualitative research** informing sports policy
- Introduction of incentives for the private sector to support Irish sport to include the **granting of 'charitable status'** for amateur sport
- **World Class professionals** working in Irish Sport
- **Effective social marketing** to ensure increased awareness of the need to meet the minimum recommended physical activity levels
- **Co-operation and collaboration** between all those involved in Irish Sport
- Increased **recognition of womens' sporting achievements** by media and sponsors
- Adapt learnings from good work in disability sport to other marginalised communities to ensure **a more inclusive sporting community**.

What a two weeks you gave us. Pride. Class. Inspiration. Joy. But in the end, the medals, the world records, the personal bests, are just one part of what it is to put on the Green and go and represent our country, our nation, with all our hopes, our dreams, our aspirations.

An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., speaking at the government reception in recognition of the Irish Paralympic Team's achievements at the London 2012 Games.



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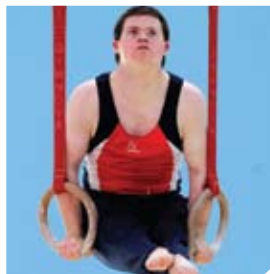
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