



Irish Handball Milestones (1884 – 2016)

- 1884** Handball is included in the G.A.A. Charter as one of the sports to be promoted by the new Association.
- 1923** The first Handball Championships are sponsored by the G.A.A. in Softball and Hardball.
- 1924** The Irish Handball Council is established to promote, develop and organise the game.
- 1925** The first All-Ireland Handball Congress is held. Commencement of All-Ireland Senior Softball and Hardball Championships.
- 1928** The All-Ireland Junior Softball and Hardball Championships are introduced.
- 1950** The Provincial Councils are revived.
- 1963** The first Inter-Varsity Championships are held.
- 1965** The 60x30 Inter County National League commences.
- 1966** The first 60x30 Juvenile Championships are held.
- 1969** The first 40x20 court in Ireland is built at Oldtown, Co. Dublin.
- 1970** A modern 60x30 court is built at Croke Park for the World Championships.
- 1971** Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan is founded. Handball for both sexes is included in the National Community Games.
- 1973** First RTE Top Ace Competition is shown over a seven-week period.

- 1974** The Irish Handball Council celebrates its Golden Jubilee. A full-time National Administrator is appointed. The first week-long National Coaching course is held in Gormanston College.
- 1975** 40x20 All-Ireland Championships are played for the first time.
- 1979** Under 14 and Under 16 40x20 Championships are introduced.
- 1980** RTE Top Ace competition is opened to International players.
- 1973-83** During this period, 152 new indoor 40x20 courts and 9 new 60x30 courts are constructed. 25 old 60x30 courts are roofed and 24 60x30 courts are renovated.
- 1994** The Waterford Crystal National Handball Awards are introduced. Waterford Crystal commence sponsorship of the National Handball Championships.
- 1995** Staging of the first Irish One Wall Nationals
- 1925-98** The number of national competitions increase from 3 to 168.
- 1998** Amalgamation of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hEireann and Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan.
- 2003** Formation of Third Level Handball Ireland to promote and develop Handball at higher level education
- 2003** FBD commence sponsorship of the Irish National Championships
- 2005** Tele2 Sponsor the US Junior National Squad
- 2006** The relationship with Martin Donnelly begins, as he becomes the main sponsor of the 60x30 All-Ireland Finals
- 2007** A full-time Promotions Administrator for handball is employed
- 2009** Breaffy House, Castlebar hosts the Irish One-Wall Nationals, with over 250 entries
- 2009** Irish Handball is rebranded as GAA Handball
- 2011** GAA Handball's One-Wall for Schools Initiative is launched.
- 2015** 400+ schools have built purpose built One-Wall Handball walls as the One-Wall for Schools Initiative continues to be a massive success.

2016 416 players compete in the Irish One-Wall Nationals in Breaffy House, Castlebar.

Irish Handball Milestones – The International Dimension

- 1880's** Several Ireland v America contests are held on both sides of the Atlantic.
- 1924** The Irish Handball Council affiliates to the International Amateur Athletic Association. Court Handball Commission is set up to legislate for Handball in all countries.
- 1932** England, Scotland and Ireland take part in the Tailteann Games.
- 1929** Spanish players hold an exhibition match in Dublin.
- 1932** Irish players travel to Liverpool for exhibition games.
- 1955** Three American players tour Ireland giving exhibition matches.
- 1964** Five countries compete in the first World Handball Championships in New York.
- 1967** The second World Handball Championships are held in Toronto, Canada.
- 1970** The third World Handball Championships are held in Dublin.
- 1974** An international team takes part in the Irish Handball Council Jubilee games in all four Provinces.
- 1980** RTE Top Ace competition is opened to international players and screened in the USA.
- 1981** First official Irish team competes in the USHA Junior Championships. Ireland wins the 15 & Under title.
- 1984** The fourth World Handball Championships are held in Dublin and Clare.

- 1985** Irish players win the USHA 17 & Under, 19 & Under and 23 & Under titles.
- 1986** The fifth World Handball Championships are held in Canada.
- 1988** The sixth World Handball Championships are held in Australia. International Millennium Tournament is held in Dublin.
- 1991** The seventh World Handball Championships are held in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Irish players win four titles.
- 1994** The eighth Waterford Crystal World Handball Championships are held in Clare, Dublin, Kildare and Meath venues. 650 players from 10 countries take part in 39 events. Irish players win 20 titles. 1995 The first European One-Wall Handball Championships are held in Wales.
- 1997** The second European One-Wall Handball Championships are held in Roscommon with eight countries participating. The Ninth Waterford Crystal World Handball Championships are held in Winnipeg, Canada.
- 1999** The tenth World Handball Championships are held in Chicago, USA.
- 2002** Irish players travel to the Basque Country for a series of exhibition matches
- 2003** The 11th World Handball Championships are held in Ireland in Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow, Laois, Cavan and Dublin venues. Over 1,100 players take part, with Cavan's Paul Brady winning the Men's Open Singles.
- 2004** Establishment of the Pro Handball Association in America, where Paul Brady takes \$50,000 at the Ultimate Showdown, defeating American handball legend, David Chapman
- 2006** Ireland take 38 titles across all grades (Open, Adult, Juvenile) at the World Handball Championships in Edmonton, Canada
- 2007** Irish players take part in their first International One-wall Tournament in the Basque Country.
- 2008** Ireland competes in the first Federations Cup in Italy
- 2009** Ireland collect 37 titles across all grades (Open, Adult, Juvenile) at the World Handball Championships in Portland, Oregon. Fiona Shannon collects her 3rd consecutive World Ladies Open Title.

- 2012** Ireland host the largest World Handball Championships ever, with 1800 players playing in a temporary purpose 23 court arena at the Citywest Convention Centre, Dublin.
- 2016** Cavan's Paul Brady wins an unprecedented 5th consecutive World Men's Open title at the 2016 World Championships in Calgary. Belfast's Aisling Reilly wins her 2nd consecutive Ladies Open title.