

Presidents of Irish Athletics 1884-2026



Ireland was affiliated to IAAF on 11.1.1924

Period	Name	Name of IAAF affiliated organisation post 1924
1885-1886	J.A.H. Christian (Chairman)	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)
1887-1901	Major Richard St Leger Moore	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)
1901-1906	Lt. Colonel Richard St. Leger Moore CB	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)
1906-1908	Sir James Creed Meredith	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)
1908-1920	Dr Robert James Rowlette, MB	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)
1920-1923	Surgeon-Captain Dr Robin Hall, MB BD	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)
1922-1929	John James Keane	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1929-1931	Dr Eamonn N.M. O'Sullivan	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1931-1933	General Eoin O'Duffy	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1933-1934	Donal Barrett	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1934-1936	Patrick C. Moore	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1936-1937	Francis J. O'Dea	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1937-1938	James C. Cleary	Irish Amateur Athletic Union (IAAU)
1938-1947	James C. Cleary	Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)
1947-1959	Fred Moran	Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)
1960-1967	James Moran	Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)
1967-1970	Thomas McDonagh	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1970-1972	James Moran	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1972-1975	Fr Kevin Ryle	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1975-1980	William Coghlan	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1980-1983	Fr John O'Donnell	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1983-1986	Patrick McGovern	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1986-1989	Reg Hayes	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1989-1991	Bobbie Begley	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1991-1994	Padraig Griffin	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1994-1995	Ronnie Long	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1995-1998	Michael McKeon	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
1998-1999	Nick Davis	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)
2000-2002	Nick Davis	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)
2002-2008	Michael Heery	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)
2008-2012	Liam Hennessy	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)
2012-2016	Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)
2016-2021	Mrs. Georgina Drumm	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)
2021-2025	John Cronin	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)
2025-	Mrs. Brid Golden (née Hallissey)	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)

General Secretary / CEO of Irish Athletics 1873-2021



Period	Name	Name of IAAF affiliated organisation post 1924	
1873-1874	Henry WD Dunlop & Reginald CM Miller	Irish Champions Athletic Club Association	Hon. Sec
1874-1875	Henry WD Dunlop & Richard W Morgan	Irish Champions Athletic Club Association	Hon. Sec
1875-1878	Henry WD Dunlop	Irish Champions Athletic Club Association	Hon. Sec
1878-1879	James H Stewart	Irish Champions Athletic Club Association	Hon. Sec
1879-1880	Francis H Chamney	Irish Champions Athletic Club Association	Hon. Sec
1880-1881	Courtenay B Croker	Irish Champions Athletic Club Association	Hon. Sec
1881-1882	HB Murray	Amateur Athletic Association of Ireland	Hon. Sec
1882-1883	Charles Rowland	Dublin Athletic Club	Hon. Sec
1883-1884	Alfred H Seddall	Dublin Athletic Club	Hon. Sec
1885-1886	John L Dunbar	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1886-1889	Edward J Walsh	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1889-1891	Daniel Delany Bulger	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1891-1892	Robert H Moore	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1892-1893	Albert J Holland	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1893-1901	Edward J Walsh	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1901-1905	Hugh Horan	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1906-1921	Hugh M Finlay	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1921-1922	HB Dawson	Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)	Hon. Sec
1922-1923	Andrew C Harty	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)	Hon. Sec
1923-1927	Tomás Ó hAonghusa	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)	Hon. Sec
1927-1929	Colonel Eamonn Broy	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)	Hon. Sec
1929-1936	James J McGilton	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)	Hon. Sec
1936-1937	Garda Sgt Michael Navin	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)	Hon. Sec
1937-1938	George V Ryan	Irish Amateur Athletic Union (IAAU)	Hon. Sec
1938-1952	Charlie McManus	Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)	Hon. Sec
1952-1953	Sean Diffley	Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)	Hon. Sec
1953-1966	Louis Vandendries	Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)	Hon. Sec
1966-1967	Brendan Foreman	Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)	Hon. Sec
1967-1969	Paddy Power	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)	Hon. Sec
1969-1972	Hugh Devine	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)	Hon. Sec
1972-1990	Brendan Foreman	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)	Hon. Sec
1990-1991	Liam Hennessy	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)	Hon. Sec
1991-1991	Eamonn Coghlan	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)	CEO
1991-1998	Liam Hennessy	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)	Hon. Sec
1998-1999	Dermot Nagle	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)	Hon. Sec
1999-2002	Dermot Nagle	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)	Hon. Sec
1999-2006	Mrs. Georgina Drumm	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)	Hon. Sec
2006-2008	Brendan Hackett	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)	CEO
2008-2009	Ms. Mary Coghlan	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)	CEO
2009-2018	John Foley	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)	CEO
2018-	Hamish Adams	Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI)	CEO

Presidents of other National bodies who organised athletics

Period	Name	Name of organisation
1937-1940	Francis J. O'Dea	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1940-1941	Myles J. Byrne	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1942-1944	General Eoin O'Duffy	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1944-1954	Thomas Cullen	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1954-1957	Sean Toomey	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1957-1967	Thomas McDonagh	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1967-1969	Edward P Stanley	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1969-1971	David Browne	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1971-1973	Denis O'Brien	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1973-1976	Liam Simpson	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1976-1978	Patrick Crehan	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1978-1981	John Hassett	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1981-1982	Frank McEvoy	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1982-1985	Pat "Paddy" Desmond	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1985-1988	Brian Kirk	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1988-1990	James Kelly	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1990-1991	Brian Vallely	National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)
1991-1995	Donal Webb	National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)
1995-1997	Rita Brady	National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)
1997-1999	Michael Heery	National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)
1884-1887	Maurice Davin	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1887-1889	Edward H. Bennett	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1889-1895	Peter Kelly	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1895-1898	Frank B Dinneen	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1898-1901	Michael Deering	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1901-1921	James Nolan	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1921-1922	Daniel McCarthy	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1968-1971	Fr Thomas Lonergan SM	Irish Schools' Athletic Association
1971-1976	Fr Kevin Ryle	Irish Schools' Athletic Association
1977-1983	Jack Sweeney	Irish Schools' Athletic Association
1984-1996	Darcy A R Chillingsworth	Irish Schools' Athletic Association
1997-2017	Michael Hunt	Irish Schools' Athletic Association
2018-	Billy Delaney	Irish Schools' Athletic Association
1990 - 1993	Cyril M. White (UCD)	Irish Universities Athletic Association
1993 - 1996	Michael Hillery (UL)	Irish Universities Athletic Association
1996 - 1999	Cyril J Smyth (TCD)	Irish Universities Athletic Association
1999 - 2002	Eric Brady (UCD)	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2002 - 2005	Stephen Lipson (TCD)	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2005 - 2006	Ian O'Sullivan (CIT)	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2006 - 2007	Stephen Lipson (Acting, TCD)	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2007 - 2008	Paul Butler (WIT)	Irish Universities Athletic Association



In 2008 the IUAA decided at its AGM to become the "Universities Committee of Athletics Ireland".

Compiled by Pierce O'Callaghan & Cyril Smyth Athletics Ireland Technical Committee pierce@savvysportsmgt.com

General Secretaries of other National bodies who organised athletics



1937-1938	Garda Sgt Michael Navin	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1938-1939	BJ Donnelly	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1940-1960	Jimmy Connaughton	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1960-1967	Paddy Power	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1967-1972	Brendan Lynch	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1972-1982	Pat "Paddy" Desmond	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1982-1990	Rita Brady	National Athletic & Cycling Association (NACA)
1990-1995	Rita Brady	National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)
1995-1997	Catherine Russell	National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)
1997-1999	Georgina Drumm	National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)
1884-1885	Michael Cusack, John McKay	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1884-1887	John Wyse Power	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1885-1887	JB O'Reilly	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1895-1889	Timothy O'Riordan	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1887-1888	James Moore	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1888-1889	William Prendergast	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1889-1890	PR Cleary	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1890-1892	Maurice Moynihan	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1891-1894	Patrick Tobin	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1894-1895	David Walsh	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1895-1898	Richard TC Blake	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1898-1901	Frank B Dineen	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1901-1922	Luke O'Toole	Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
1990-1993	Michael Aughey	Irish Universities Athletic Association
1993-1996	Eric Brady	Irish Universities Athletic Association
1996-1997	Ricky Simms	Irish Universities Athletic Association
1997-2000	Stephen Lipson	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2000-2002	Keir McNamara	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2002-2003	Vacant	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2003-2006	Rebecca Haworth	Irish Universities Athletic Association
2006-2008	Cyril J Smyth	Irish Universities Athletic Association

Other key dates:



The IAAA were first to stage an 1885 championship, in the RDS on July 11th, while the inaugural GAA championships didn't take place until October 6th, at Tramore racecourse.

On Feb 26th 1922 the GAA gave Mr J J Keane, Chairman of their Athletic Council, permission to proceed with a new org.

The IAAA was officially dissolved in July 18th 1922.

1922: NACA formed as 32 county organisation

1924: NACA accepted by IAAF as member for 32 counties of Ireland.

1937: NACA suspended from membership of IAAF because it refused to confine its activities to the then Irish Free State.

1937 AAUE formed on 26 county basis and affiliated to IAAF. NACA continued in existence

1967 AAUE and part of NACA merge to form BLÉ which takes over AAUE affiliation to IAAF

1999 BLÉ, NACA and NIAF (Northern Ireland) agree to formation of AAI on all-island basis

National Athletic and Cycling Association (NACA)

Founded 19.7.1922

Affiliated to IAAF 11.1.1924

Amateur Athletic Union of Éire (AAUE)

Founded 22.4.1937 as Irish Amateur Athletic Union

Affiliated to IAAF as AAUE 28.2.1938

Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann (BLÉ)

Founded 16.4.1967

Affiliated to IAAF 16.4.1967

Athletic Association of Ireland

Founded 6.11.1999

Affiliated to IAAF 18.11.1999



National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)

Renamed in 1990

Gaelic Athletic Association

Founded 1.11.1884

Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)

Founded 21.2.1885

Athletic Association of Ireland

Founded 6.11.1999

Affiliated to IAAF 18.11.1999

National Athletic & Cultural Association of Ireland (NACAI)

Renamed in 1990

Gaelic Athletic Association

Founded 1.11.1884

Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA)

Founded 21.2.1885