

Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*
*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

Le

28 MARS 2017

N°

0121

Interim National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

In December 2015, following a Government Decision, Ireland ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention shall come into force 3 months after ratification on 22nd March 2016.

As a first step, the Department convened an interim advisory group to advise on the implementation of the Convention in Ireland. This group comprised of representatives from the Arts Council, the Heritage Council, together with the National Monuments Service and Arts Division of this Department met on 22 February, 2016 to provided initial advice on the drawing up of an interim National Inventory, as required by the Convention.

On the basis of the recommendation of the advisory group, the Minister approved Uilleann Piping and Hurling for inclusion on the interim National Intangible Cultural Inventory of Ireland. Both of the concerned organisations, Na Piobairi Uileann and the GAA, have expressed an interest in having these elements of our national intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage and are actively preparing applications required to be submitted to UNESCO by 31st March, 2016.

Date	Reference	Element
22 nd February 2016	NIICH – 001	Uilleann Piping
22 nd February 2016	NIICH – 002	Hurling

Dated 16 March 2016

Interim National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Reference No. NIICH -002

Name of the Element:
Hurling / Iománaíocht
Geographical location and range of the Element:
Hurling is traditionally played in a compacted geographic area in Ireland corresponding with east Munster, south Connacht, the midlands and south Leinster as well as in isolated pockets of Ulster. Hurling is also popular amongst members of the Irish diaspora who have formed hurling clubs in North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, South Africa and Asia. Thurles in the heart of the Irish countryside is the spiritual home of hurling
Identification and definition of the Element:
Domain manifested by the element: <input type="checkbox"/> oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> performing arts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social practices, rituals and festive events <input type="checkbox"/> knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> traditional craftsmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (Traditional Games)
Description of the Element:
Hurling is believed to be the world's oldest field game. Hurling is defined as unique part of Gaelic culture, an intrinsic part of our Irish heritage and pastimes. Hurling features in Irish folklore to illustrate the deeds of heroic mystical figures (Setanta /Cúchulainn) and it is chronicled as a distinct Irish pastime for at least 2,000 years. Each team is made up of 15 players The stick, or "hurley" (called camán in Irish) is curved outwards at the end, to provide the striking surface. The ball or "sliotar" is similar in size to a hockey ball but has raised ridges. There are up to 160 motor skills unique to hurling. Hurling played well is an extremely fast sport to play and watch as the pitch can be up to 145m long and 90m wide. Players traverse the pitch from one end to the other at speed. One of the key skills is running with the ball balanced on the hurley. Scoring is by way of a goal, which is counted as 3 points or 1 point score which is achieved by putting the sliothar over the crossbar.
Bearers and practitioners of the element:
The practitioners of hurling are known as hurlers, and the bearers of the element of hurling is the GAA. A hurler can play at an organised level from the age of six on within the GAA. A hurler can play at a recreational, club, county and provincial level within GAA organised hurling and camogies game for males and females.
Transmission of the knowledge and skills related to the element today:
Coaching resources for the growth and informed articulation of the game and its skills, techniques, tactics and individual/ team play of hurling are developed and disseminated through the GAA's Games Development Office. The Hurling Development Committee is the GAA's advisory and management committee for the development and promotion of hurling.
Safeguarding Measures:
Over four hundred coaches are deployed across Ireland's 32 counties for the coaching and fostering of our native national hurling game and work closely with the thousands of club coaches in fostering the game of hurling in an informed, enjoyable and open approach.
Concerned Community organisation(s) or representative (s)
GAA



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Annex to Section 5 of the ICH -02 2018 Hurling Application

Hurling is included in the interim National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage as an element of the national intangible cultural Heritage of Ireland in conformity with Articles 11.b and 12 of the Convention.

The interim advisory group comprising of representatives from the Arts Council, the Heritage Council, together with the National Monuments Service and Arts Division of the Department of Arts, Heritage Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs aim to meet on a quadrennial basis or more frequently, if required, pending the volume of expressions of interest for inscription on the interim National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The next scheduled meeting will take place in February 2020.

Thérèse O'Connor
Assistant Principal.