

	Annual General Meeting Irish Athletic Boxing Association 11th October 2025 10.30am Held at Girdwood Community Hub MINUTES
(In Attendance)	Board: Chair Niall O’Carroll, Ted Barry (TB), Art O’Brien (AO) Charles Toland (CT) , Gus Farrell (GF) Company Secretary: John Nangle (JN) Officers: Stephen Connolly (Registra) Auditors: Ciara Fitzgerald Nexus CEO: Gary Stewart Staff: Ciara Plunkett, Rachel Moffat, Stephen Flynn, Clare McCauley, Bridget Scott, Liam Corr, John Mackey.
Agenda Item 1 Opening of Meeting and Chairs/CEO Address	Meeting Commencement The meeting was delayed by 30 minutes and commenced at 11:00 am. Quorum The Company Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present, with the required minimum of 40 members in attendance. The Chair welcomed everyone and formally declared the meeting open. Apologies for absence: National President Anto Donnelly and Anti-Doping Officer Sean Crowley. A roll call was conducted, and the standing orders were read aloud. A full list of delegates is attached as Appendix A. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 7 December 2024, had been made available on the company website and were approved by the Board. Welcome Address On behalf of the Ulster Boxing Council and Antrim County Board, Ulster President Kevin Duffy welcomed delegates and attendees to the AGM. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for holding the 2025 AGM in Belfast. Mr Duffy acknowledged that the Association had faced many challenges in recent times and emphasised the importance of implementing a clear membership

engagement strategy and improving communication channels to ensure members could make informed decisions.

Chair's Address

The Chair clarified his own position and informed the meeting that he would be stepping down in the near future. He highlighted the need for a new rulebook and advised that a Boxing Congress would be arranged in the new year.

The Chair also informed delegates that resolutions would be decided either by a show of hands or by poll, and that voting results would be announced following the conclusion of the voting process.

CEO Report

CEO Gary Stewart thanked delegates and attendees before providing an overview of his professional background, career to date, and observations from his first three months in the role.

He emphasised that a robust membership engagement plan would be critical to maintaining strong connections with members. He noted that engaged members contribute to stronger communities, increased volunteer participation, and improved attendance at events.

Mr Stewart explained that National Governing Bodies are generally established to organise competitions, govern their sport, and develop national teams. He stated that these priorities would form the organisation's focus over the next three to five months.

Key areas of work would include:

- Reviewing the organisational structure;
- Improving efficiency, communication, productivity, and decision-making processes;
- Developing national strategies to support clubs;
- Enhancing athlete development pathways;
- Introducing a new membership system; and
- Improving the organisation's brand and public perception.

National Performance Director Update

National Performance Director Jon Mackey provided an overview of the programme-wide reviews conducted during the previous six months.

He reported that an independent cultural review had been completed and that its recommendations would be implemented to improve the experience of boxers participating in the programme.

Mr Mackey also advised that new selection and assessment proposals had been developed, with a focus on improving communication, planning, and integration across the athlete pathway system.

	He concluded by providing an update on the Commonwealth Games nomination process and outlining the consultation process that would take place.
Agenda Item 2 Anti-Doping Report:	Ciara Plunkett read out the report. IABA is proud to support clean sport through the provision of education opportunities, and partnering with Sport Ireland and other anti-doping agencies in the facilitation of testing. Anti-doping is a vital tool in ensuring a level-playing field for all athletes. Testing Over the past 12 months Sport Ireland have completed 82 anti-doping tests on IABA athletes, of which 18 were In-Competition and 64 Out-of-Competition – there were no adverse analytical findings and all tests were 100% clean. 15 IABA athletes are members of the Sport Ireland Registered Testing Pool this year, and all were tested, at random, outside competition. All 17 boxers selected to represent Ireland were tested ahead of the World Boxing World Championships in Liverpool, ensuring that only clean athletes travelled. In Competition testing was completed at the National Elite Championships, Elite Open Competition and National U23 Championships. Testing was conducted at semi-finals and finals stages. This is an important development as, historically, testing has been confined to champions. More random, widespread testing is desirable, and it's excellent to progress this volume of testing. Education The focus this year has been improving Anti-Doping Education and Awareness. Workshops were in January/February for the circa 40 athletes across the HPU Senior and Priority Development Squads, in addition to online e-learning provision. We also staged, in collaboration with Sport Ireland, Anti-doping Outreach programs in the National Stadium in May & August during the National Senior Cadets, U15 and U23 Championships - providing learning opportunities to over 400 athletes, their parents/guardians, club coaches and clubs. Developing our Programmes: In 2026, it is intended to expand the number of IABA Anti-Doping Tutors, with training scheduled for early next year. Bolstering the number of educators within the Association means accurate, timely anti-doping information will be more widely available to boxers, club coaches, clubs and parent/guardians. Additional Outreach programmes will take place, in collaboration with Sport Ireland, at National Championship events and we hope to further expand in-competition testing at domestic events. This is my first annual report as IABA's Anti-Doping Officer, and I'd like to take this opportunity to commend the work of my predecessor, Larry Morrisison. Larry served as the Association's Anti-Doping Officer for almost 2 decades, during a period of frequent change and development in the worlds of testing and education and it is his work on which we now build. Sean Crowley IABA Anti-Doping Officer.

Agenda item 3 Safeguarding Report	Stephen Flynn IABA National Safeguarding Manager read out his safeguarding report. National Committee: Jennifer O’Sullivan-Coffey (Chairperson/Munster CPO) Anto Donnelly (Board of Directors) Anna Moore (Central Council) Ronan Kelly (Dublin CPO) Sibheal Greene (Connacht CPO) Margeret Lambe (Leinster CPO) Padraig Lavery (Antrim/Ulster CPO) Stephen Flynn (SGM IABA/Secretary) Firstly, I would like to recognise the work of the Committee, not only in their time in attending meetings, but in their role in policy development, case management, vetting reviews, feedback and support over the past year. Safeguarding Training The IABA’s proactive approach to supporting our clubs in best practice through education is evident in the number of Safeguarding Courses delivered both online and in person in 2025 throughout the Association. To date in 2025, we have delivered 15 Safeguarding 1 basic awareness courses (SG1) online and in person, an additional 5 SG1 courses scheduled for the remainder of the year. There have been 251 coaches and club administrators trained on SG1 – a record for IABA-delivered training in this space. 32 Club Children’s Officers have availed of IABA-delivered Safeguarding 2 courses. This significant learning provision would not have been delivered without the availability of our trained IABA Safeguarding Tutors. The Committee would like to recognise Bridget Scott and Gabe Cronnelly for their support in delivering training throughout the year. *Data Taken 02/10/2025 Safeguarding/Pre-Affiliation Workshops: In preparation for affiliation for the 2025/2026 season, 27 online workshops were held across weekday lunchtimes, evenings and Saturday mornings on the updated member management system to track Garda Vetting, updating coaching qualifications, and include all members for insurance purposes and the practicalities of managing a Safeguarding matter, should it arise at club level. 50% of clubs attended these workshops, which were designed to support clubs in in their day-to-day management. I would like to thank all who delivered and made the workshops possible, and all club representatives who took the time to attend. Vetting: The upward trend in members applying and completing vetting applications has continued through 2025. Applications have increased by 11% on 2024 in the year-to-date. The Committee thanks all the Club Children's Officers and administrators who process and send applications on behalf of their members. There was a significant increase in the processing of completed applications again this year compared to 2023/2024 with notably fewer incomplete applications or expired invites. 2023 & 2024 full year data, 2025 Data up until 02/10/2025 From a compliance perspective, IABA has successfully completed an Access NI audit - our gratitude to Ulster colleagues who continue to be diligent and ensuring highest standards on processing applications for our members. IABA welcomes and facilitates on-
--	--

going spot checks and compliance audits from the National Vetting Bureau at random intervals.

A full audit on compliance is due in early 2026. Some new changes have occurred on both platforms in recent months, and a suite of Lunchtime learning will be delivered in Q4 to help support clubs and members adjust to those changes. It highlights greater need with completion of forms and acceptance of the verification documentation on both sides. Greater EU wide checks are now carried out and will increase waiting times by a minimum of 10 days. Some other important milestones for mention: Review of the Safeguarding Strategic plan 2024-2028: This is a live document and is reviewed twice annually, in addition to an audit by CPSU in Northern Ireland.

We continue to implement the best practices across all 32 counties, and more work will be required on this. The next scheduled review of this document will be November 2025. Safeguarding and Policy Review: In line with best practice, a review of our National Policy and its appendices were conducted by Tulsa's compliance department early in 2025. The feedback was largely positive, particularly in areas of reporting and case management practices. IABA's National Safeguarding Statement is due for review in 2026 and our suite of policy documents will be updated at that time, accordingly.

The Safeguarding Statement is a living document that requires refreshing every two years and is linked to our funding with Sport NI and Sport Ireland. Underage Team Ireland: 2025 was a very successful year both inside and outside the ring for our international boxers at juvenile level. All training camps and away trips were supervised and delivered to the highest standard. Feedback and continual improvements into our preparation of our Team Managers, coaches, parents/guardians and boxers prior to and post trip is an area we wish to strengthen looking ahead to 2026.

We have given additional training to our Team management pool and this has paid dividends in terms of coach and boxer feedback. Our congratulations to all who represented their county in 2025. Youth Mental Health First Aid: IABA added Youth Mental Health First Aid Training added to our suite of club supports in the final quarter of 2024.

The training, delivered in partnership with Mental Health First Aid Ireland, is free for all IABA participants and is funded and supported by the HSE and St. John of Gods Services. We delivered two online and one in person course during 2025, with 32 attendees in total.

There are plans to host one more session in Quarter 4 of 2025. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: We would like to recognise the importance of this work over the past 12 months by our colleague Patrick Adejayan and the number of volunteer members that engaged and assisted in the progression of our 360 EDI policy. A suite of training was delivered over the course of the year on Inclusion, Diversity, Disability Awareness, Autism in Sport, Unconscious Bias and High Five to name just a few of the topics that our membership availed of during the year. We are

	also thankful to Active Disability Ireland for their guidance on expert input into the training. Summary As we continue to work toward our ambitious goals as set out in our Safeguarding Strategy and within the framework of our 2024-2028 Strategic plan, In Your Corner, there are big opportunities for making the sport of boxing a leader in safe sport and inclusivity. Some strides will be required on updating our governance practices in the sport and technology will play a major part in bring those advancements forward. We look forward to working innovatively with our members on a practical and top-class solution in this space. One of the big-ticket items the Association has on its agenda for 2026 calendar year is capturing the youth voice in sport. We are aiming to partner with some universities to conduct a research project in early 2026 and then establish a youth forum/ council to inform the association on different matters. This is widely best practice across many of the top sports Nationally and Internationally. I would like to commend the thousands of volunteers who coach, administer and support our members on a daily and weekly basis helping foster young athletes love for boxing and lifelong learning in a child centred environment. Stephen Flynn National Safeguard
Item 4 Auditors Report	Presentation of Audited Financial Statements Ciara Fitzgerald of Nexus presented the audited financial statements and Auditor's Report, including the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2024. The auditors confirmed that the books of account had been properly maintained and expressed their appreciation to the finance team for their assistance and cooperation throughout the audit process. Members were afforded the opportunity to raise questions on the financial statements and audit report. All queries raised were addressed by the Company. It was resolved that the audited Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account, together with the notes forming part of the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, and the Auditor's Report and Directors' Report thereon, be taken as read and be hereby approved and adopted by the members.
Item 5 Reappointment of Auditors	The Chair confirmed that Nexus Chartered Accountants had expressed their willingness to continue in office as the Company's statutory auditor. The Chair invited members present to raise any queries regarding the eligibility of the auditor for reappointment. No queries were received from the membership.

	It was resolved that Nexus Chartered Accountants be reappointed as statutory auditor of the Company until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Proposed by: Eugene Duffy Seconded by: Charles Totland
Item 6 Motions	The meeting considered one Ordinary Resolution, as previously notified to members: <i>"That, following the overwhelming vote (99%) at the Extraordinary General Meeting to join World Boxing, the members resolve that it is in the best interests of boxing in Ireland for the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) to disaffiliate from the International Boxing Association (IBA) and to affiliate solely with World Boxing, and to give effect to this decision through the Rules and administrative documents of the IABA."</i> The Chair advised that, under the Association's procedures, motions are ordinarily decided by a show of hands unless, either before or after a show of hands, the Chair determines, or a majority of members present and entitled to vote resolves, that the matter should be decided by ballot. The Chair invited members to indicate whether the resolution should be decided by a show of hands or by ballot. Vote on method of voting: • In favour of a show of hands: 26 • In favour of a ballot: 14 As a majority of members voted in favour of a show of hands, it was determined that the Ordinary Resolution would be decided by that method. Discussion Dino Dallat (Ballymote Boxing Club) spoke about the values and standards promoted through coach education programmes and encouraged members to reflect on their own values and principles when making their decision on the resolution. Darren McGavin (Neilstown Boxing Club) expressed the view that the move away from the IBA was politically motivated. He questioned previous decisions of the Board and Chair, referred to what he described as a significant change in position since the previous EGM, and stated that the constitution should be reviewed and updated by the membership. He further commented that change was required within the Association for the benefit of members. Gary Faye (Phoenix Ballyboughal Boxing Club) expressed his disappointment regarding the handling of a previous appeal, which he felt had not been dealt with fairly. He stated that, in his view, the outcome of the resolution would make little practical difference, as the Association was unlikely to participate in further IBA

	competitions. He added that he looked forward to 2026 and the introduction of a new organisational structure. Mal Scott questioned who was representing clubs in discussions with the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Government representatives. He expressed concerns that the matter was politically motivated and queried why the Association could not remain affiliated to both organisations. Paddy Gallagher (Maynooth Boxing Club) queried the rationale for disaffiliating from the IBA and expressed the view that clubs should remain affiliated to both organisations. Responding to the discussion, CEO Gary Stewart outlined the reasons supporting the proposed disaffiliation. He advised that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had written to national Olympic federations and that the Olympic Federation of Ireland had been informed that it could not accept new members who remained affiliated to the IBA. Jimmy McGrath (St Agnes Boxing Club) stated that the democratic process should be respected. While acknowledging the importance of free speech and open debate, he commented that the time had come for members to vote on the resolution. It was further noted that, while affiliated to the IBA, the IABA would not be eligible for membership of the Olympic Federation of Ireland, and Irish boxers would therefore be unable to compete at future Olympic pathway events, including the 2026 Youth Olympic Games and the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Vote on the Resolution The Chair called upon voting delegates to cast their votes by raising a green card if in favour of the resolution and a red card if against. Voting results: • In favour: 35 • Against: 5 The resolution was carried by 87.5% of votes cast. Resolution Passed The members resolved that the Irish Athletic Boxing Association disaffiliate from the International Boxing Association (IBA) and affiliate solely with World Boxing, with the necessary amendments to the Association's Rules and administrative documentation to give effect to this decision.
Meeting Closed	

Appendix A

Arbour Hill, Ballymore, Ballymote, Ballymun, Banbridge, Bishop Kelly, Castlebar, Castleblaney, Cavan, Clonard, Corpus Christi, Dublin Docklands, Glengormley, Golden Gloves Kilkeel, Holy Family Golden Gloves, Holy Trinity, Immaculata, Lisburn, Lucan, Maynooth, Monivea, Monkstown, Monkstown Dublin, Mulhuddart, Neilstown, Oakleaf, Ormeau Road, Phoenix ABC, Phoenix of Ballyboughal, Riverstown, Smithfield, Saints, St. Agnes, St. Catherine's, St. Francis, St. Joseph's, St. Matthew's, St. Paul's ABC (Antrim), St. Michael's Athy, Star, Saviour's Crystal, Two Castles Olympic, Whitechurch.

Scrutineers: Kevin Duffy, St. Joseph's BC, Derry; Alan Donnellan, Monivea BC, Trish McLoughlin, St. Catherine's BC, Dublin.