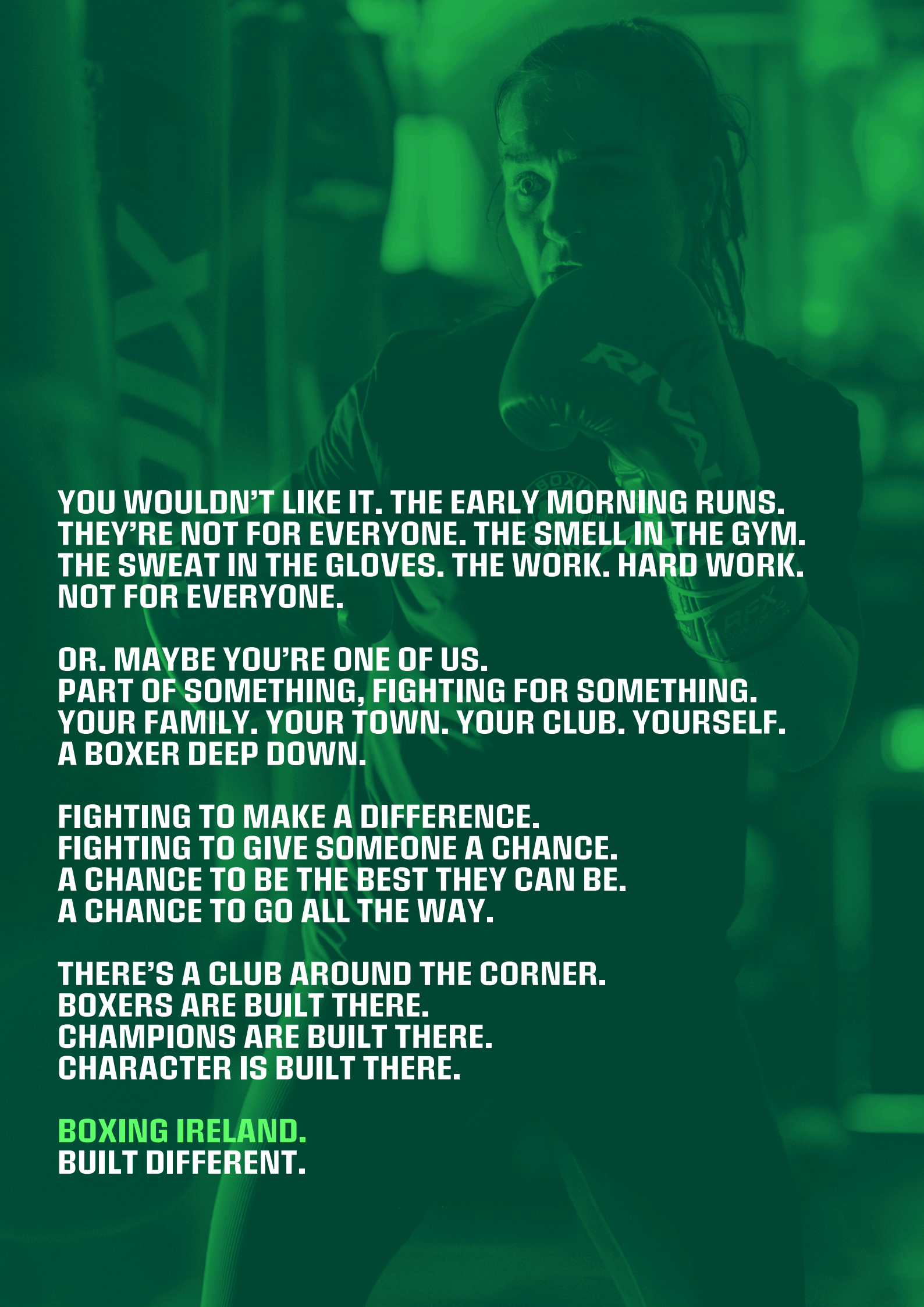


2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Irish Athletic Boxing Association
t/a Boxing Ireland





**YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT. THE EARLY MORNING RUNS.
THEY'RE NOT FOR EVERYONE. THE SMELL IN THE GYM.
THE SWEAT IN THE GLOVES. THE WORK. HARD WORK.
NOT FOR EVERYONE.**

**OR. MAYBE YOU'RE ONE OF US.
PART OF SOMETHING, FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING.
YOUR FAMILY. YOUR TOWN. YOUR CLUB. YOURSELF.
A BOXER DEEP DOWN.**

**FIGHTING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
FIGHTING TO GIVE SOMEONE A CHANCE.
A CHANCE TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE.
A CHANCE TO GO ALL THE WAY.**

**THERE'S A CLUB AROUND THE CORNER.
BOXERS ARE BUILT THERE.
CHAMPIONS ARE BUILT THERE.
CHARACTER IS BUILT THERE.**

**BOXING IRELAND.
BUILT DIFFERENT.**

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Chapter 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & STRATEGY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SUMMARY

Gary Stewart

CEO, Boxing Ireland

As I complete my first full year as Chief Executive, I want to offer my thanks to the Boxing Ireland community of volunteers, clubs, staff, coaches, boxers, and supporters. It has been a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable journey so far.

I've worked across many sports, but I am continually blown away by the sheer passion boxing people have for their sport, their club, and their community. It is powerful. You're built different.

Report

This comprehensive report outlines the progress Boxing Ireland has made in the last twelve months. Sometimes when you're in the thick of it, you don't see the achievements.

It's very detailed, but I feel it's important for transparency and accountability that we report to our stakeholders.

The report is broken down into seven chapters. The introduction is a summary of our highlights and achievements, of which there are many, and includes a progress update related to our strategic plan. We're on track to hit the vast majority of our objectives and KPIs



67%

Of members are satisfied with Boxing Ireland as your NGB



60%

Of members think they get value for money



80%

Think Boxing Ireland is successful

The rest of the report is then divided into the organisational departments of Boxing Ireland; Boxing Competitions led by Anto Donnelly as Central Council President, Performance & Pathway, Operations & Development, Commercial & Marketing, Finance & Stadium, Governance & Board.

Anto's President's Report goes into detail about the opportunities being provided to our young boxers to grow as athletes. I doubt there has been a year where so many boxers have represented their country, with not only the National Champion, but often the 1st, 2nd and 3rd reserves getting international experience. Getting back into the four nations has been a massive plus.

Jon Mackey's High-Performance report makes great reading. The unit has been transformed over the last twelve months, with closer collaboration with Central Council and clubs. Aoife & Lisa's gold medals in Sofia are a great boost. Focusing more on the pathway is a key priority for the coming year.

Clare McAuley was appointed as our Chief Operations Officer in October 2025 and her team is doing great work from an organisational perspective. Achieving Irish Centre for Diversity Bronze rating, implementing a new salary framework, and overhauling our complaints & disciplinary processes are vital pieces of work that won't always grab the headlines, but are covered in the Operations and Development section.

Ciara Plunkett and I, provide an overview of what's happening from a commercial and marketing perspective including great strides on sponsorship, social media growth, and of course the re-brand project.

John Nangle, our Chief Financial Officer gives you an overview of the association's accounts for the year, which returned a small deficit in 2025. This is the first time in a long while that the association didn't yield a profit as we look to invest more in boxing. We continue to be heavily dependent on government funding, and whilst we want more of that we do need to generate more organic and sustainable sources of income ourselves.

The Chair of the Board of Directors, Niall O'Carroll has penned a review of board activities for the year and a summary of the main risks facing the organisation. Communicating this work is an important part of becoming a more transparent Boxing Ireland.

Priorities

At last year's AGM I presented my priorities for 2026. There was four 'big rocks' as I described them. These were projects that I felt were needed to move the dial of our association.

There were several 'stones' and a few 'pebbles'; important projects that will make a difference. I'm delighted to see we've completed or made significant progress on all of them including an industry leading re-brand, a new membership system, an organisation restructuring, and significant investment in pathway development.

Looking ahead to 2027 I have identified five key objectives to drive our sport forward:

- Triple sports capital funding for our community to over €5m
- Publish a participation strategy and lobby government for specific boxing development funding for our member clubs
- Develop a National Stadium masterplan and design concept
- Secure a major sponsor for our sport
- Launch a fundraising and philanthropy programme to better help support clubs and athletes

We also have significant work on our agenda to fully integrate the Sport 80 system, to embed the pathway strategy, to enhance our Coach Education programme, and to better educate, support, and evaluate our Referee & Judges. There should be clear supports in place for everyone involved in our sport; boxers, coaches, referees, and volunteers.

People

Naturally, my focus as CEO is on the organisation. How we protect it, how we move it forward. That's ultimately my responsibility. But in my view, the best way to do that is to focus on our people. How we support and educate coaches, referees and judges, club volunteers, officers, parents, our staff, and of course the boxers. That's what it's all about.

I hope over the next twelve months you'll see more of a focus on how we engage with, support and connect with our people. Boxing Ireland is its people.

Thank you again for all the support you've given me in the last twelve months. I'm excited for the year ahead.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

GARY



HIGHLIGHTS

5TH PLACE

In the Elite European Boxing Championships medal table

2 GOLDS

On the way to Castelfraia for Aoife and Lisa O'Rourke

16 Medals

European medals: 5 Championships still to come in 2026

BIGGEST EVER

Sparring camp held on the island ahead of the Commonwealth Games

4 NATIONS

Returns after a 20-year hiatus

OIREACHTAS

Strong and positive appearance in front of the JOC

DUAL INTLS

Several events held across Ireland



LIAM NEESON

Voiced re-brand launch video starring Kellie Harrington

PAY

Developed industry leading pay and salary framework for staff

22%

Growth on Boxing Ireland's social media channels

6

Coach Developers pass formal Sport Ireland training

RE-BRAND

A new identity for our organisation is revealed

AWARDS

Annual awards brought back to celebrate community success

DIVERSITY

Awarded Bronze status with the Irish Centre for Diversity

SPONSORS

Punctual Print join Nike and Sting as key partners

50 MILLION

Impressions on Boxing Ireland's social media channels

COMPLAINTS

New complaints & disciplinary procedures put in place

DEVELOPMENT

Department re-structure to focus more on club support

BIGGEST EVER

sparring camp held on the island ahead of the Commonwealth Games

NEW WEBSITE

Launched with a modern look and feel

R&J

10 new evaluators trained

347

New coaches trained across the island

PATHWAY

Investment secured and pathway development lead appointed

WELFARE

Aidan Walsh appointed as athlete welfare and support lead

28 MILLION

Positive impressions on external channels about Boxing Ireland

WHATSAPP

Over 1500 people join new channel for quicker communication

SPORT 80

New membership system put in place

STADIUM

Feasibility study and design concept commissioned

WOMENS

Commission hold first open day and conference

SURVEY

New survey launched to gain views of members

STRATEGY



→ In Your Corner

Boxing Ireland's strategic plan, In Your Corner, was published in mid-2024 and runs up until the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics Games.

The strategy outlines a number of key metrics, headline objectives, and actions, that will lead to Boxing Ireland becoming Ireland's most innovative, inclusive and development-focused sporting community. This chapter in the annual report outlines progress made against those metrics, objectives, and actions.

→ **9/12**

Main objectives on track or complete

→ **100%**

Key metrics on track or exceeded

→ **50%**

Actions on track

Metrics

The strategy outlined eight key metrics largely related to participation. As you can see almost all have significantly exceeded initial targets. However, the benchmark data was reliant on Blocworx entries and is therefore not wholly accurate. Participation targets for boxers, referees, coaches and school participants will be re-set next year once Sport80 is fully operational. Key metrics we are monitoring closely is the number of affiliated clubs, the number of social media followers, and the number of world and Olympic medals. Due to early successes, these targets will be stretched following a review in early 2027.

Headline Objectives

The strategy initially established 12 headline objectives that will drive the sport forward. Some of these are closely linked with the key metrics outlined above, such as reaching 21 Olympic medals and growing social media channels by 30%. Those aside, six key objectives were set;

1. A high-performance pathway in operation

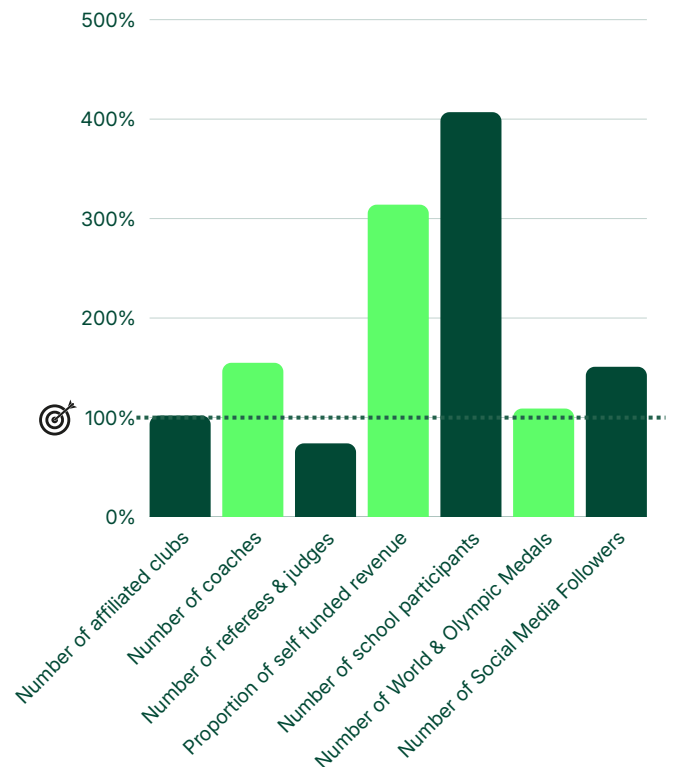
Update: Pathway funding from Sport Ireland has been received with a pathway development lead in place. The pathway strategy will be launched at the end of 2026 and implemented in 2027. A number of initiatives including the TPAP programme have already launched.

2. Rebrand the Organisation

Update: Completed with wide acclaim and success.

3. Increase gender balance on all national committees to a minimum 40% of each gender.

Update: An ongoing process with work needed, particularly at Central Council level. All board sub-committees will be gender balanced from January 1st 2027.



4. One Leadership body.

Update: Clearer understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each committee are required here.

5. A stronger presence on the Sport Ireland Campus

Update: Exploring opportunities for further growth of the High Performance unit, and office presence.

6. Commenced re-development of the National Stadium

Update: The Board have commissioned a feasibility study and design masterplan. This will be completed in early 2027, with funding to be secured after that. Internal upgrades are expected to be delivered in 2028.

The strategy outlined a number of action milestones to be achieved with associated timelines. These are under review as operational planning for 2027 and 2028 commences.



Chapter 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anto Donnelly

President, Boxing Ireland

2026 has been a year of significant progress and achievement for Boxing Ireland, with our focus where it belongs: on our boxers, and the growth of our sport.

The return of the Four Nations, the breadth of our international programme, our athletes' achievements on the world stage and the revamped Elite Championships have all been important milestones. Alongside these sporting developments, we have also made meaningful progress in how we engage with our members, develop our organisation, support our clubs and plan for the future. Each reflects the dedication of our boxers, coaches, clubs, officials and committees, whose collective contribution continues to drive Boxing Ireland forward

The Elites

The reimagining of the Elite Championship Finals in January was another important milestone. As the pinnacle of domestic competition, the finals needed to reflect the quality, ambition and professionalism of our boxers. The new approach created a greater sense of occasion and a platform worthy of their performances, while reinforcing the championships' importance within the high-performance pathway. Here, reputations are made, international places contested and the standards required to represent Ireland tested. Investing in the finals recognises our elite boxers and gives the highest level of domestic boxing the profile it deserves.



Four Nations

Revived after 20 years



5 Internationals

Supporting boxer development



Pathway

Strategy in development

Four Nations

June was a red-letter month. We fielded the largest-ever Team Ireland and returned to the Four Nations after a 20-year hiatus. Eighty-five boxers from 70 clubs across 25 counties travelled to Glasgow for four days of competition against Scotland, Wales and England, supported by 16 coaches and Team Managers – a literal Green Army.

For me, the significance went beyond the numbers. Such a large and representative team demonstrated the strength and depth of boxing across our clubs and communities. From established internationals to young athletes experiencing this level of competition for the first time, the Four Nations provided an invaluable opportunity to test themselves, learn and represent their clubs, communities and country.

The delegation also highlighted the work behind the scenes. Coaches, Team Managers, officials, volunteers and Central Council members all played their part, allowing our boxers to focus on giving their best for Ireland.

The return to the Four Nations was much more than a tournament appearance. It was an important step in our ambition to provide international opportunities across all age groups, strengthen the pathway from club boxing to international competition, and ensure boxers from every part of the country can experience representing Ireland.

Internationals

The Four Nations built on the international tradition begun in 2025, when nine dual-nation internationals provided development experience across age categories. We continued that in 2026 with two-day U15, U17 and U19 internationals against Wales and Scotland; internationals in Munster against the Netherlands and in the National Stadium against France; and competition in Stockholm against Sweden.

These events are about more than results. They expose boxers to different styles, environments and the demands of international competition, creating an important bridge between domestic boxing and the highest levels of the sport.

Support Staff Development

No boxer travels alone. Behind every international team is a network of coaches, Team Managers, officials and volunteers. As President, I have been particularly pleased to see the opportunities created for our coaches and Team Managers, with some deepening their international experience and others beginning their international coaching careers. Club members have also taken their first Team Manager appointments under the guidance of experienced team leaders.

Just as we create pathways for our boxers, we must create them for those who coach, manage and support them. These individuals are ambassadors for their clubs and Boxing Ireland, and carry the honour and responsibility of representing Ireland with Team Ireland.

The Pathway

One of the most important areas of strategic, boxer-focused progress has been the premium now placed on the pathway.

Securing pathway funding and the appointment of Dáithí McCabe as Pathway Development Lead represent important steps in developing a more structured and sustainable pathway for our boxers. We are all looking forward to seeing the pathway strategy launched, and I would like to thank everyone who has engaged with the process so far. The pathway must be central to our thinking. It should provide clarity for boxers, coaches and clubs, support progression through the age groups, and ensure that talent is identified, nurtured and given the right opportunities at the right time.

This is a long-term project, but it is one of the most important investments we can make in the future of Irish boxing.

Its success will depend on continued collaboration across clubs, coaches, committees, staff and athletes.

Engagement, Representation and Collaboration

The strengthening of Boxing Ireland's engagement with our members and with public representatives has been an important pillar of success in 2026.

Our appearance before the Oireachtas was a significant opportunity to showcase the importance, reach and contribution of boxing across Ireland. It also generated considerable goodwill among members of the Oireachtas, helping to reinforce understanding of the role our sport plays in communities throughout the country. It was an important reminder that boxing is not simply a sport; it is a major social, community and sporting asset.

We must continue to ensure that the voice of our clubs and members is heard clearly, both within our organisation and in wider public discussions about the future of Irish sport.

That commitment to listening has also been reflected in our member engagement throughout the year. The Club Forum, the Championships Survey and the member survey conducted at the beginning of the year have all provided valuable feedback. Importantly, this is not engagement for its own sake. The views and experiences shared by members and clubs are informing and influencing our decision-making.

A strong governing body must listen, respond and remain accountable to those it serves. We are continuing to build that culture across Boxing Ireland.

Rebrand and the National Stadium

The rebrand project, launched in January, is about more than a new visual identity; it is about bringing renewed energy, purpose and life to Boxing Ireland and to the National Stadium.

The Stadium remains our spiritual home, a place of enormous history and significance to Irish boxing. The rebrand has helped us begin to present it in a way that reflects the vibrancy of the sport today, while respecting and celebrating the heritage on which Boxing Ireland has been built.

There is still more to come, and the Stadium will be enhanced further in the near future. Our ambition is to ensure that it continues to serve as a home worthy of our boxers, clubs, members and the wider boxing community.

Innovation: Championships & Competition Delivery

We have also been willing to explore new approaches to how we deliver competitions.

The multi-ring approach piloted for the U15 and U17 championships at the Basketball Arena was a good example of this. The feedback from clubs was particularly positive, especially in relation to the time and money saved for members.

That feedback matters as we have a responsibility to deliver competitions efficiently and effectively, while ensuring that the experience for boxers and clubs remains as positive as possible. Where new approaches can reduce costs, shorten long days and make participation more accessible, we should be prepared to consider them.

The National Stadium remains our spiritual home and will continue to play a central role in the future of Boxing Ireland. As we look ahead to its further enhancement, we must also remain open to using other venues and approaches where they benefit our members and strengthen the delivery of our championships.

Working Together for the Common Good

I have also been encouraged by how effectively the Officer Board and staff have engaged with one another throughout the year. There has been a clear willingness to work together, share responsibility and focus on what is in the best interests of boxing

Organisations make progress when people work collaboratively, respect different roles and keep the common good at the centre of their decisions. The constructive relationship between the Officer Board and staff has been an important part of the progress made in 2026, and I want to acknowledge the contribution of everyone involved.

There is always more work to do, but a shared commitment to serving our clubs, supporting our boxers and strengthening Boxing Ireland provides the right foundation for the future.

Looking Ahead

Our international programme in 2026 has therefore been about more than individual competitions. It has been about creating opportunities for our boxers, developing our coaches and Team Managers, strengthening our clubs, listening to our members, improving how we operate and building a deeper, more sustainable pathway for Irish boxing.

From the Oireachtas to the club forum, from the Four Nations to the National Stadium, from our championship reforms to the development of the pathway, the common thread has been progress through collaboration and a clear focus on the future.

We are not simply building for tomorrow; we are building the strongest possible future for Irish boxing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anto Donnelly".

Anto Donnelly

President, Boxing Ireland

Central Council Officer Board

President, Anto Donnelly
Vice President, Eugene Duffy
Secretary, Tara Robins Mari
Registrar, Stephen Connolly
Treasurer, Larry Morrison



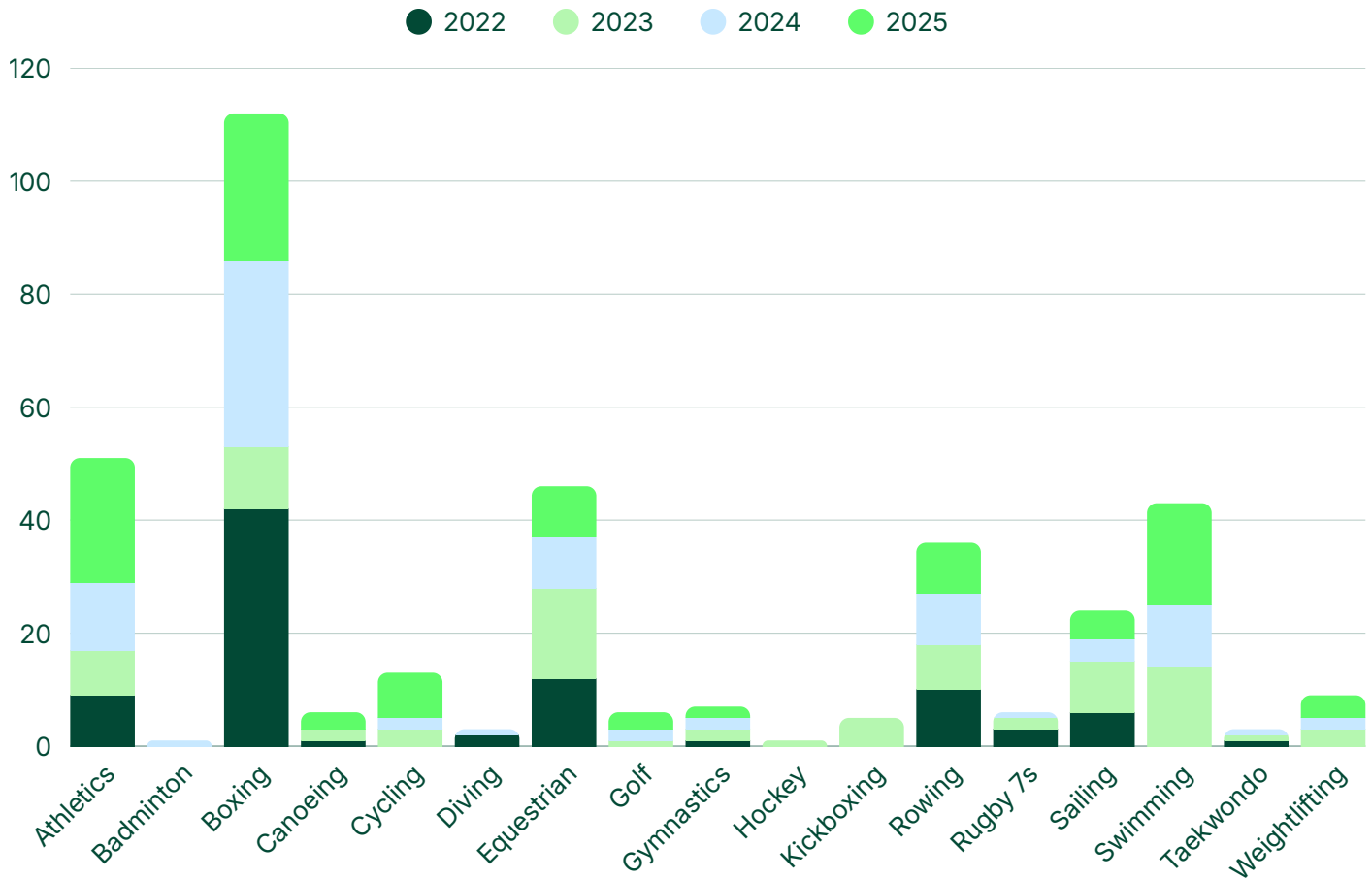


Chapter 3

PERFORMANCE & PATHWAYS

High Performance Sports by Medals

Source: Sport Ireland



INTRODUCTION

→ 5TH

European Elite
Medal Table

→ PATHWAY

Lead appointed &
funding secured

→ TPAP

Programme
launched

The 2025–26 season represented an important period of rebuilding and development for Boxing Ireland’s High Performance Unit (HPU). Throughout the year, the focus was on strengthening the operational capacity of the programme, reconnecting High Performance more closely with the wider Association and club network, developing a clearer athlete pathway, increasing international competition opportunities and strengthening the policies and processes underpinning team selection.

Together, these areas of work have provided a stronger foundation for the High Performance Programme and positioned Boxing Ireland to build towards the 2027 Olympic qualification cycle.

Results of this work were quickly proven with the Elite European Championships returning four medals and a 5th finish in the medal table. Boxing continues to out perform all other Olympic sports at a High Performance level.

Rebuilding High Performance Capacity

A key priority during the year was rebuilding the operational and technical capacity of the HPU, especially integral given the departure of Zaur Antia in late 2025. Significant progress was made through a number of important appointments.

Daithi McCabe was appointed as the new Pathway Development Lead to lead the development of Boxing Ireland's national athlete pathway. Initial scoping and stakeholder consultation have been completed and a position paper developed, providing an important foundation for the next phase of this work.

Two High Performance Coaches were also appointed, in JP Delaney and Liam Cunningham, increasing coaching capacity within the programme, while the appointment of an Athlete Support & Welfare Lead in Aidan Walsh, we have strengthened the focus on athlete welfare and support services. A dedicated High Performance Administrator, Cian Lennon, was appointed to coordinate the day-to-day operational requirements of the HPU.

Recruitment of a full-time National Head Coach also progressed during the reporting period and remains on schedule. Collectively, these appointments represent an important investment in the people and structures required to deliver a stable, athlete-focused and internationally competitive High Performance Programme.

Strengthening the Athlete Pathway

Developing a clearer and more connected pathway from underage boxing through to senior international performance was another major focus during the year.

HPU support for the U19 programme was also increased through regular squad training, closer collaboration with coaches and the development of selection policy. Kristian Jubani was nominated to the Olympic Federation of Ireland as Ireland's sole boxing representative for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, with an individual High Performance preparation programme established in collaboration with his club coaches.

The HPU also supported the delivery of Boxing Ireland's largest international sparring camp, held in Belfast in July. The camp brought together 19 international teams and 185 boxers, providing valuable international training and sparring opportunities on the island of Ireland.

Reconnecting High Performance with the Wider Association

An important objective throughout 2025-26 was to strengthen the relationship between the High Performance Programme and the wider Boxing Ireland community.

HPU representation at Central Council meetings was maintained during the year, alongside collaboration with Central Council on a number of specific projects including a trip to Sweden. Increased outreach to clubs and club coaches, together with a visible HPU presence at Youth, U23 and Elite National Championships and Box Cups, helped create greater accessibility and connection between High Performance and the wider Association.

This work is particularly important to the development of a sustainable High Performance system. Ireland's international athletes emerge from the club system, and closer cooperation between clubs, coaches, development structures and High Performance will remain central to building a strong national athlete pathway.

International Competition and Performance

Increasing exposure to high-quality international competition was a major feature of the programme during the year.

At the U23 European Championships in November 2025, Ireland secured six medals – one silver and five bronze. During the first six months of 2026, the HPU supported senior Irish teams across eight international competitions, providing athletes with valuable competitive experience against international opposition, in both Brazil and China at World Boxing Cups.

There were a number of notable performances during this programme. Irish boxers secured four Elite medals at the Strandja International Tournament – one silver and three bronze – and recorded nine wins at the Feliks Stamm round-robin event in Poland. The Four Nations Elite Team also delivered a strong performance, winning 11 gold medals.

The Irish team was subsequently selected for the 2026 European Championships. As part of preparations, Boxing Ireland organised an international training camp in Dublin involving Hungary, Finland and Nigeria, giving Irish athletes further access to high-quality international sparring in advance of the Championships.

These international competition and training opportunities form an important component of athlete development and will become increasingly significant as the programme moves towards the Olympic qualification period.

Selection Policy and Governance

Alongside athlete and programme development, considerable work was undertaken to strengthen the processes supporting High Performance selection.

A new performance-based selection process was implemented for Elite and U23 teams, with the National Elite Championships brought back into the selection process. The HPU also contributed to the development of the U19 Selection Policy. Planning also commenced for the 2027 Olympic qualification pathway, with the National Elite Championships forming the foundation of the selection process.

Clear, transparent and appropriately communicated selection processes will remain an important priority as Boxing Ireland enters the Olympic qualification cycle.

Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2027

The progress achieved during 2025–26 provides a stronger platform from which to develop the High Performance Programme.

The focus for 2027 will be on consolidating this work while preparing athletes and the wider programme for Olympic qualification.

A central priority will be completing the appointment of a full-time National Head Coach, providing clear technical leadership across the High Performance Programme.

Athlete welfare and support will also continue to be strengthened through the planned publication and implementation of the Boxing Ireland Athlete Welfare Policy and weight management policy, alongside the continued integration of the Athlete Support Lead. Work on the national athlete pathway will move to its next stage, with the objective of agreeing a clear pathway from underage development through to senior international performance.

At the same time, the expanded HPU staffing structure will be embedded, with continued emphasis on clear roles, responsibilities and effective operational processes.

Olympic qualification will become an increasingly important focus. Boxing Ireland intends to publish the Olympic Qualification Selection Pathway in late 2026, providing athletes and coaches with early clarity around the selection process for the 2027 qualification events. Preparation and international competition programmes will be targeted towards ensuring Irish teams are appropriately prepared for both Olympic qualification events and other priority international competitions.

The Targeted Pathway Athlete Programme will continue, supporting U19 and U23 athletes with the potential to progress towards senior international performance. In collaboration with Central Council, the HPU will also seek to expand the international training and sparring opportunities available in Ireland, building on the international camp programme established during 2026.

Finally, collaboration with Boxing Ireland Coach Education will be strengthened, providing targeted coaches – with a particular emphasis on female coaches – with opportunities for exposure to the High Performance environment.

Building Towards the Next Olympic Cycle

The 2025–26 period has been one of rebuilding, reconnection and progression for Boxing Ireland's High Performance Programme. Increased staffing capacity, the introduction of TPAP, closer engagement with clubs and the wider Association, increased international exposure and strengthened selection processes have established important foundations for the next stage of the programme.

The challenge now is to consolidate that progress and translate stronger structures into sustained international performance.

As Boxing Ireland moves towards the 2027 Olympic qualification cycle, the priority will remain clear: to provide athletes with the coaching, support, competition opportunities and High Performance environment required to maximise their potential on the international stage.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Mackey".

Jon Mackey
High Performance Director







Chapter 4

OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2026, the Operations and Development Department has focused on strengthening the support available to clubs, increasing opportunities to participate in boxing, investing in our coaching workforce and continuing to improve the systems and structures that underpin the Association.

Participation Development and Club Support

Participation activity continued to reach communities that have traditionally experienced barriers to involvement in sport. In Connacht, 35 participation programmes and Try It Days were delivered across Sligo, Leitrim, Galway and Mayo, with a reported reach of more than 4,050 participants. Startbox and other introductory boxing programmes continued to develop across schools, clubs and community settings.

A particular emphasis was placed on creating opportunities for children, teenage girls, women, Traveller women, people with disabilities and communities experiencing disadvantage. Work also extended into rural and Irish-speaking communities, including development activity in Conamara and the Aran Islands, where longer-term opportunities to participate in boxing are being explored. Partnership working has been central to this activity. Relationships with Local Sports Partnerships, County Boards, schools and community organisations have continued to develop, alongside a new partnership with Swim Ireland through HER MOVES.

In Ulster, a 20-school outreach programme targeted rural and cross-community areas, with delivery supported by coaches from local boxing clubs. Four School Try It Days in Newry, Ballymena, Omagh and Newtownabbey were designed not simply as introductory experiences, but as a pathway for young people into their local clubs.

Female participation was supported through taster programmes, networking and dedicated events, as well as the 'Like a Girl' school pilot. Disability programmes were delivered with specialist schools and community organisations, including Kilkeel Autism Awareness Group. Adult health and wellbeing initiatives in South Armagh and Kilkeel also used boxing to engage adults aged 30–50, with a particular focus on reducing isolation and overcoming barriers to physical activity.

Supporting clubs themselves remained equally important. Twelve club-support workshops were delivered during the affiliation window, while seven new clubs were supported in preparation for the 2026/27 season. A significant operational milestone came on 16 June 2026 with the launch of Sport80 – "The Corner", bringing club, county and provincial affiliation onto a national CRM platform.

Coach Education and Training

Developing knowledgeable, confident coaches remains fundamental to the future of Irish boxing. Across the four provinces, 400 coaches completed the Fundamentals qualification and a further 130 completed Level 1.

There was also progress in building the Association's own coach-development capacity. Six Coach Developers completed their placements and graduated through Sport Ireland Coaching, with a further two progressing to placements. Candidates from Ulster and Munster have also secured opportunities on upcoming Coach Developer courses. Work continued on the Level 2/Advanced Coach qualification, supported by mentoring, observation, assessment and placement activity. Cuts and Wraps training and the Youth Leadership Programme for 14–21-year-olds also continued to develop.

International learning formed part of this work, with an Erasmus visit to the Netherlands in March providing an opportunity for knowledge exchange and informing future coach development.

One of the year's highlights was Swinford BoxCon, delivered in partnership with Swinford Boxing Club and Mayo Local Sports Partnership. More than 100 people participated in a programme incorporating coach qualifications, sport psychology, Cuts and Wraps, youth mental health, youth leadership and coaching teenage girls.

Safeguarding and Integrity

Safeguarding and integrity remain central to providing a safe and positive boxing environment. Year-to-date activity included eight Safeguarding 1 courses for 148 coaches and three Safeguarding 2 courses involving 12 members. Ulster activity separately recorded three safeguarding courses with 59 attendances. Two Youth Mental Health workshops also reached 20 participants, supported through partnerships with the HSE and community organisations.

During the year, the Association introduced a new Complaints, Concerns and Feedback Portal, accompanied by a supporting policy. Version 3 of the Safeguarding Policy was published, while the Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Statement were reviewed in April.

Two national Safeguarding and Integrity meetings took place, alongside the ongoing consideration of complaints, concerns and vetting disclosures. Engagement also continued around adult safeguarding and shared approaches to case management with other governing bodies.

The Youth Forum met twice during early 2026 before its activity was subsequently paused. Garda vetting activity was also lower year-on-year, with 355 checks completed year to date compared with 581 at the equivalent point in 2025, a reduction of approximately 39%. This will remain an area for continued monitoring.

HR and Organisational Development

Considerable work was undertaken to strengthen the Association's people structures and create greater consistency and transparency in recruitment and employment practices.

A single six-level pay framework was developed, aligning salary bands across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and providing a more consistent basis for recruitment, role evaluation and pay decisions. Work also progressed on a formal job-evaluation and salary-mapping process, supported by Heads Together, to review existing roles and update job descriptions.

Five positions were advertised across four priority recruitment campaigns, with 85 applications processed by late June. Recruitment included the Head of Club Support and Participation, Regional Club Support and Participation Managers for Leinster and Munster, a High Performance Administrator and a Commercial & Marketing Executive.

Core HR documentation and processes were standardised, including job descriptions, person specifications, contracts, recruitment approvals, shortlisting and interview scoring. Management controls around recruitment, grading, salary positioning and employment terms were also strengthened.

The national and regional club-support structure was reshaped to build both national leadership and regional capacity. From 1 April 2026, a dedicated Development Officer was also put in place to support PUL communities and other under-represented groups.

The Association was pleased to achieve the Investor in Diversity Bronze mark, reflecting our continuing commitment to developing a more inclusive organisation and sport.

Case Study: LEAP Programme

29 women, including Olympians Michaela Walsh and Grainne Walsh, graduated with a Professional Diploma in Leadership and Management as part of a collaboration between Boxing Ireland and Longford College.

This was a first partnership of its kind between Boxing Ireland and an institute of further learning.

The professional diploma course modules included an exploration of strategic management frameworks and leadership styles, identification of gender-related challenges in leadership, navigating organizational structures, active mentorship, networking and promotional strategies.

Learnings from the course will assist graduates in their sporting, volunteering and professional lives.

The participants, from 24 clubs in counties Antrim, Cork, Down, Donegal, Dublin, Kerry, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo, Tyrone & Wicklow, formally graduated at a ceremony in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin Airport.

Impact in Practice: 'Like a Girl'

The 'Like a Girl' community pilot demonstrates what targeted participation programmes can achieve beyond initial engagement. The programme introduced girls and women aged 13 and over to boxing in a welcoming community environment, with confidence, connection and empowerment at its heart.

Aligned with Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, the pilot culminated in a celebration evening at Mossley Mill. Evaluation of the programme recorded 100% enjoyment and 100% positive feedback on participants feeling welcomed and safe.



Clare McAuley

Clare McAuley
Chief Operators Officer





Chapter 5

COMMERCIAL & MARKETING

Brand & Commercial



In January 2026, the IABA was re-branded as Boxing Ireland.

Official Boxing Kit Partner



Official Boxing Equipment Partner



Official Branding & Print Partner



The establishment of a dedicated Commercial and Marketing function represents an important step in the continued development and professionalisation of Boxing Ireland. Led by CEO Gary Stewart and supported by Communications & Public Affairs Manager Ciara Plunkett, the department has focused on strengthening the Boxing Ireland brand, developing meaningful commercial partnerships and creating new revenue streams that can be reinvested directly into Irish boxing.

The approach is underpinned by a simple principle: to build the commercial strength of Boxing Ireland while ensuring that the benefits generated ultimately flow back into the sport, its clubs and its people.

Brand

The rebrand to Boxing Ireland has been one of the most visible developments of the year and has provided the organisation with a stronger and more contemporary identity.

Central to the rebrand is an eye-catching new logo designed to better represent our community and the energy, ambition and character of Irish boxing. More than a change of name or visual identity, the transition to Boxing Ireland has created an opportunity to redefine how the organisation presents itself and how our sport is perceived by the wider public.

Throughout the year, there has been a deliberate focus on strengthening that perception through positive storytelling and more consistent communications, including online town halls, member surveys, and club forums.

Our Built Different values have been placed front and centre of the communications strategy. These values provide a framework through which we can demonstrate that boxing is about much more than what happens inside the ring.

The stories of our clubs, coaches, volunteers and boxers illustrate the real impact the sport has on young people and communities.

The result has been an enhanced Boxing Ireland brand, supported by increased positive news coverage and a changing public perception of the organisation and the sport. Performances in the ring by great role models like Aoife & Lisa O'Rourke help.

Sponsorship & Partnerships

Developing a stronger portfolio of commercial partnerships has been a key priority for the new department.

During the year, Boxing Ireland developed partnerships with Sting Sports, Nike Boxing and Punctual Print, bringing respected commercial partners closer to Irish boxing and creating relationships that can support the organisation, its athletes and the wider boxing community.

The focus is not simply on securing sponsorship. Boxing Ireland is seeking to develop long-term partnerships with organisations that recognise the reach, values and social impact of our sport and see an opportunity to become part of its future.

These partnerships also demonstrate the growing commercial potential of Boxing Ireland. A stronger brand, clearer organisational identity and improved communications provide a significantly enhanced platform through which partners can engage with our members, clubs, athletes and supporters.

Discussions are continuing with a number of prospective new sponsors and commercial partners. Building on the foundations established this year, the objective is to develop a diverse and sustainable partnership portfolio capable of generating additional resources for investment across Irish boxing.

Commercial Revenues

Alongside sponsorship, the department has focused on identifying opportunities to generate sustainable commercial revenues from Boxing Ireland's existing assets, activities and audience.

A number of initiatives have already been developed.

The car park arrangement with the Parking People provides an additional revenue stream from an existing asset, while bringing the stadium kiosk service in-house means that revenue generated through this activity can now be retained within Boxing Ireland.

Work has also progressed on the development of a dedicated Boxing Ireland shop, providing clubs, boxers and supporters with direct access to boxing equipment and related products.

This will be complemented by the forthcoming launch of an online Boxing Ireland shop, extending access to clubs and members throughout the country.

Importantly, clubs can now purchase equipment directly from Boxing Ireland. This creates a model in which the boxing community can buy the equipment it needs while the profits generated remain within the sport.

Rather than commercial activity being viewed as separate from our sporting mission, the objective is to create a virtuous circle: boxing supporting boxing.

Building for the Future

The creation of the Commercial and Marketing department marks the beginning of a longer-term programme of work.

The foundations established this year — a revitalised Boxing Ireland brand, new commercial partnerships, stronger communications and the development of new owned revenue streams — provide a platform from which the organisation can continue to grow.

There remains significant untapped commercial potential within Irish boxing. Our network of clubs, the achievements of our athletes, the commitment of our volunteers and coaches, and the extraordinary impact the sport has within communities combine to create a compelling proposition for supporters and commercial partners alike.

Social Media

Boxing Ireland has achieved significant growth in its media and digital presence in 2026, building strongly on performance in 2025. Social media followers have increased by 22%, driven by competition. The increased visibility generated by coverage of major domestic and international competitions has helped Boxing Ireland reach new audiences and strengthen engagement across its digital platforms.

By the end of September, Boxing Ireland's social media content had generated 50 million impressions, representing the number of times Boxing Ireland posts were encountered by social media accounts. This substantial reach reflects the growing interest in Irish boxing and our ability to translate competition activity into increased digital visibility.

Media coverage has also delivered significant exposure, with Boxing Ireland achieving 44.3 million media impressions by the end of September. Combined, social and traditional media activity has generated more than 84 million impressions, demonstrating the scale of Boxing Ireland's public profile.

The figures represent a significant step forward from 2025 and underline the continued growth of Boxing Ireland's communications, digital engagement and media presence. Competition coverage remains central to this progress, providing compelling content that connects our community, its athletes and their achievements with an expanding audience.



Chapter 6

FINANCE & STADIUM REPORT

FINANCE REPORT

The Irish Athletic Boxing Association reported total income of €4.373 million in 2025, broadly unchanged from €4.378 million in 2024. Expenditure was €4.381 million, resulting in a modest deficit of €8,501, compared with a surplus of €6,534 in 2024. The Association remains financially sound, with net assets of €7.237 million. Cash balances declined from €1.032 million to €930,365 during the year, largely due to increase in spending of previously deferred government grants.

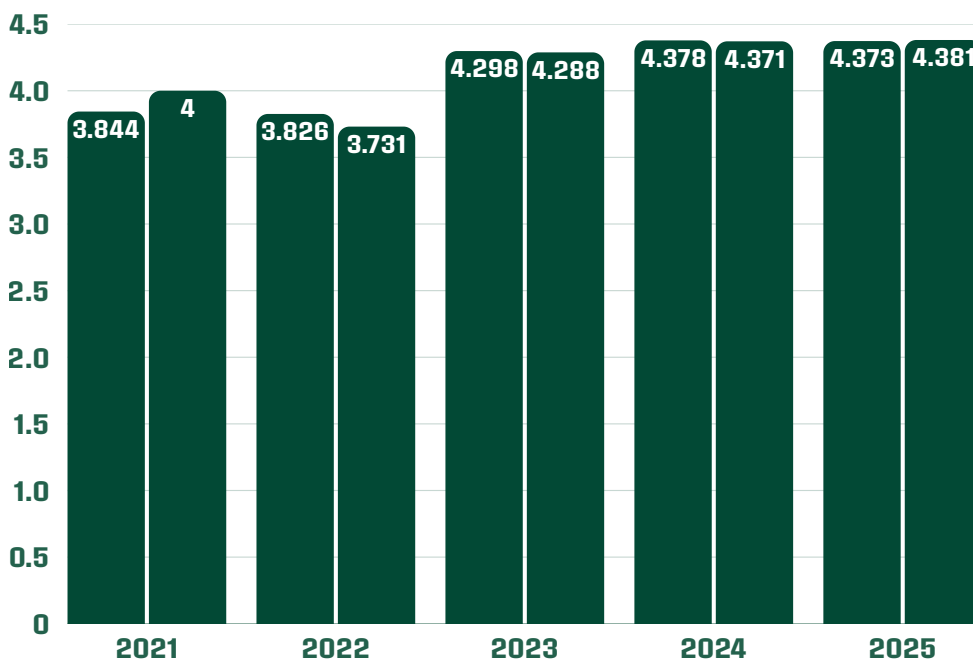
A key feature of our income profile is the Association's significant reliance on government and public-sector funding. Around €3.43 million, or 78% of total income, arises from government/state-related grants and programmes. This includes Sport Ireland Annual Core Grant Aid, High Performance funding, Sport NI and Northern Ireland programmes, Dublin and Belfast City Council funding, the Community Employment Scheme, Dormant Accounts programmes and other targeted state supports.



View the full audited accounts.



PnL by Year (€m)



Income is left column. Expenditure is the right column.

Income

→ €4.373M

Expenditure

→ €4.381M

Net Assets

→ €7.237M

Government Sources

→ 78%

Club Affiliation Fees

→ €306K

Insurance Costs

→ €303K

On age group trips

→ €284K

Tournament net income

→ €30K

Cost per boxer to compete at age group Europeans

→ €2.6K

Sponsorship Income

→ €31K

Whilst Boxing government support is welcome and deserved, we are overly dependent on it. A key focus for the coming years must be the development of commercial revenues, through sponsorship and retail sales, to support the growth of our sport.

Furthermore, the association will invest in the development of a philanthropy programme for high-net worth individuals and corporate organisations to donate to Boxing. Once we are compliant with the Governance Code, we will be eligible for donor tax breaks on cash gifts to Boxing Ireland.

A new fundraising committee will be established in late 2026 to generate more revenue to invest in our pathway and performance programmes.

Unlike many National Governing Bodies, club or individual fees do not contribute to the running of the organisation. Club affiliation fees (306k), directly pay the cost of the insurance premium (303k). Meaning the association often lacks surplus cash to develop new and innovative projects.

National Championship competitions generated a surplus of 32k. Competition costs continue to rise above inflation with rising hotel bills, expenses and extended competition days.

The National stadium is the only true organic income source for the company, accounting for around 10% of income, or 437k. The direct costs of operating the stadium run to around 250k.

Typically, the net income of the stadium funds youth national team activities that aren't eligible for High Performance funding. In 2025, we spent 284k on youth national team trips with more on domestic training.

Increasing flight costs is putting a strain on funding youth teams competing at European and World Championship events. It costs on average, 2.6k to send a youth boxer to an age group European Championship.

At some stage in the short to medium term, the National Stadium will require a significant upgrade, which may result in a reduction of organic income.

The introduction of a stadium restoration levy on all concert tickets with funds ringfenced for future stadium upgrades, will be introduced in 2027.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Nangle".

John Nangle
Chief Financial Officer





Chapter 7

GOVERNANCE & BOARD REPORT

Board

The Board's role is to provide strategic leadership and appropriate oversight of the organisation, while ensuring that the executive team has the structures and authority required to manage the day-to-day business of Boxing Ireland effectively. During the year, we have continued to strengthen that distinction and to develop a Board culture focused on strategy, accountability, risk, financial stewardship and the long-term interests of Irish boxing.

The appearance of our delegation of President Anto Donnelly, CEO Gary Stewart, and COO Clare McAuley in front of the Oireachtas Committee in July, demonstrated the progress we are making as an organisation.

Strategic Decisions and Oversight

The Board considered and approved a significant programme of work during 2025-26. Collectively, these decisions reflect an organisation that is modernising its structures, strengthening its governance and building the foundations for sustainable sporting and organisational success.

A summary of substantive decisions made through the year:

- The Board approved a new pay and salary framework, providing a clearer and more consistent basis for remuneration across the organisation.
- Approved a new organisational structure, including a significant redesign of the Development Department to strengthen its focus on club support, participation and the development of boxing throughout the country.
- Approved the 2026 operational budget, with a new more strategic structure.
- Approved the establishment of a commercial operating vehicle to deliver new projects like an online and physical boxing equipment shop.
- Approved important commercial partnerships with Sting and Nike.
- Approved various policies including selection policies and election processes including the setup of an independent nominations panel.
- Following comprehensive consultation with members, approved activation of the Boxing Ireland trading name, and re-brand project.
- Approved a bid to host the u17 European Championship

Board of Directors

As of August 31st 2026

Niall O'Carroll, Independent Chair
 Anto Donnelly, President
 Darren O'Neill, Member Elected Director
 Fiona Hennigan, Member Elected Director
 Gus Farrell, Connacht Representative
 Art O'Brien, Leinster Representative
 Charles Toland, Ulster Representative
 Teddy Barry, Munster Representative
 Ceire Smith, Appointed Director
 Christina Desmond, Appointed Director

Governance and Organisational Development

Considerable attention was given to strengthening the governance architecture supporting the Board. Terms of Reference for Board sub-committees were approved, providing greater clarity around their respective responsibilities, delegated authority and reporting relationships with the Board.

The Audit and Risk Committee was also reconstituted, reinforcing the importance placed by the Board on financial oversight, organisational risk and effective assurance. The work of this committee no doubt helped us make a significant saving on our insurance premium, which has been passed on to member clubs.

The Board also oversaw recruitment of a new Chair, who'll get to work after the AGM. I'm looking forward to welcoming John Farrelly for a smooth handover.

Risk Management and Assurance

Effective risk management is an essential component of good governance and an important responsibility of the Board. During the year, the Board, supported by the Audit and Risk Committee and executive management, continued to review the organisation's Risk Register and the actions being taken to manage and mitigate significant organisational risks.

Three areas have been identified as being of particular significance and have consequently received focused attention from the Board.

- Governance Code compliance remains an important organisational priority. The Board recognises the potential regulatory, reputational and funding implications associated with non-compliance with applicable governance requirements. A programme of actions is being progressed to address identified requirements, supported by regular engagement with Sport Ireland.
- Gender balance at Board level is also identified within the Risk Register. The Board recognises the importance of achieving appropriate gender balance and diversity within its membership and the need to address the risk of falling short of applicable governance expectations in this area. Sport Ireland have been clear for some time that funding may be at risk for sport's that do not have gender balance at Board level.

- Health and safety at the National Stadium represents a significant operational responsibility for Boxing Ireland. The Board recognises the importance of maintaining robust systems to protect athletes, officials, staff, volunteers, spectators and other users of the facility

The Board will continue to monitor these and other risks through the Risk Register, with oversight from the Audit and Risk Committee. Our objective is not simply to identify risk, but to ensure that appropriate ownership, controls and mitigation measures are in place and that progress is regularly reviewed

Looking Ahead

The scale of the Board's work during 2025-26 reflects the extent of change taking place across Boxing Ireland.

Our priority is to ensure that the changes approved by the Board become embedded throughout the organisation and translate into tangible benefits for our clubs, coaches, officials, volunteers and, most importantly, our boxers.

As Chair, I want to acknowledge the contribution of my fellow Directors throughout the year. Board service carries significant responsibility, and I am grateful for the time, expertise, scrutiny and commitment that Directors have brought to their roles. I also acknowledge the work of the members of our Board sub-committees, including those who contribute their expertise independently and voluntarily to the organisation.

I would also like to thank our Chief Executive, senior leadership team and all members of staff for their work in implementing the strategic direction and decisions of the Board during what has been a period of considerable organisational development.

It has been a pleasure to work with President Anto Donnelly, whose energy, enthusiasm and professionalism is refreshing.

Finally, the Board recognises that Boxing Ireland ultimately exists to serve and develop the sport. The extraordinary contribution made by volunteers in boxing clubs across the island remains the foundation upon which Irish boxing is built. Our responsibility as a Board is to ensure that the organisation supporting those clubs and their members is governed professionally, strategically and responsibly, and is equipped to protect and grow the sport for future generations.

Three years ago, I took on the role of Chair in what's fair to say were fairly turbulent times. I think the change in our organisation has been remarkable. It has been one of the honours of my life to serve such a prestigious and successful organisation. I'm excited to see the continued evolution of our community.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years. We've made a bit of history, we've done some great work, keep it going.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Niall O'Carroll".

Niall O'Carroll

Chair, Board of Directors



COMPANY INFO

Legal Company Name

→ **Irish Athletic Boxing Association CLG**

Phone

→ **+353 1 453 33 71**

Email

→ **info@boxingireland.ie**

Website

→ **www.bboxingireland.ie**

Address

→ **145 SCR, Dublin D08 HY40**

Company Number

→ **459881**

Solicitors

→ **SETANTA SOLICITORS, DUBLIN**

Auditor

→ **NEXUS ACCOUNTING, DUBLIN**



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