

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

# **CONTENTS**

Company	y Information	03
Company	y Overview	04
Message	from The Board	05
Message	from the Operations Director	07
Key Proje	ects — Highlights	08
	Rebranding	08
	Reflecting Core Values	09
	Community Feedback	09
	Supporting Growth	10
	Partille Cup	10
	Trinity Comprehensive School Hall Renovation	12
Marketin	ng Report	13
	Social Media & Digital Presence	13
	Community Engagement & Sponsorship Activation	23
	Media and Public Relations	24
Participa	ation Report	25
	Primary and Secondary School Competitions	25
	School Programs and Partnerships with Local Authorities (LSPs)	25
	Transition Year (TY) Programs	26
	Walking Handball	26
	Handball Camps	26
	OHI Opportunities for Volunteers Participation	26
Women i	n Sport Report	27
Competi	tions Report	30
	National Handball Championships	30
	School Leagues	31
	Celtic Cup	31
	Key Highlights from the Season	31
	Final-4 in Lisburn	32
	National Beach Handball Championship 2024	33
	Key Highlights	
Anti-Dop	ping Report	
	g Report	
	nce Report	
	rding Report	
•	n "Injuries in Handball Players: What Coaches Need to Know."	
	on	
	x I - Financial Report	42





Company Name: Olympic Handball Ireland

Company Number: 152594

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Facebook facebook.com/IrelandHandball

**X** x.com/irelandhandball

**YouTube** youtube.com/@OlympicHandballIreland **Instagram** instagram.com/olympichandballireland









# **COMPANY OVERVIEW**

#### **OUR PURPOSE**

- Catering to all participants at all ages, ability, or skill level
- Creating a space for fun, friendship and competition
- Respect for individuals and communities, supporting ambition
- Enhancing health and wellbeing through participation
- Connecting Ireland to the 200m plus global handball family

#### **OUR VISION**

To ensure that Olympic Handball is accessible and available at all levels across Ireland from junior players through to senior and full international.

#### **OUR MISSION**

That Olympic Handball is accessible throughout the country for all levels of participation and competition



PILLAR1
EDUCATE & ENGAGE

PILLAR2
DEVELOP&GROW

PILLAR 3
PROMOTE & PERFORM

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Hi everyone, its that time again when we look back to reflect on our achievements over the last year and how together we are shaping the future of Olympic Handball across the island of Ireland. The year seems to have flown in but you can see in this report there was a huge amount of activity across all areas to ensure the sport is more visible and accessible. I'll just highlight a few headliners, but I recommend dipping into this report which includes a lot more detail.

A critical and necessary step was the rebranding of the organisation which has been a major success. Not only did we change our name but our logo too and the inspirational new design represents a much more dynamic and exciting style which is befitting an organisation dedicated to expanding participation and inclusion across all sectors of Irish society. The response has been very positive, and our community and partners have embraced the new look.

To complement and amplify our messages, Social Media and Digital Activity have been completely transformed, web traffic is 30 times higher, and Facebook is up by over 87% without any spend on adverts. Instagram and Linkedin has doubled. The marketing team led by Daniela including Caroline, Becca and Holly have done an incredible job and this has established a key competency in support of our strategy to promote handball in Ireland.

Board membership increased when earlier this year Pamela Bastable and Maria Byrne joined the Board.

Pamela has had a distinguished career with Hockey Ireland as Company Secretary and Operations Manager and is focussed on Governance. Maria is a Director of a Global Pharmaceutical company and has stepped into the Treasurers role. I'd like to thank both of them for hitting the ground running and making a great contribution to the governance and financial structures of the organisation. It's also worth noting that the Board has also achieved the mandated 40% for female participation.

Our relationship with Sport NI continues to strengthen and thanks to Eugene's work over the last 2 years Olympic Handball is growing in Northern Ireland. Sport NI has invested in OHI in recognition of our role delivering handball under 'The Power of Sport'.

Sources of funding continue to be diversified which is a major strength as handball becomes better established across the country. Funding for projects with LSP's and other regional partners is certainly going to be crucial to support grassroots development. Capital funding continues to be available (but not fully utilised) and I would point to the €475k grant for our project in Ballymun as an incredible vote of confidence in OHI. In addition, we are expecting to benefit from significant investment by the European Handball Federation through the Master Projects programme in the coming year. Overall income is increasing year on year making it more likely that we can deliver on projects and develop beneficial commercial partnerships and sponsorship.





I'd like to thank our staff, in particular João, Caroline and Eugene for their hard work and dedication to the development and running of the sport at all levels. It's important to note that each wears a number of hats and they have been innovative and supportive of the organisations goals and objectives.

I'd like to thank my colleagues on the Board.

They have done and continue to do, an incredible amount of work on the basic nuts and bolts of organisation, governance, finance and reporting.

Board members have brought their considerable skills and talents to bear on achieving our strategic and operational goals. OHI is now operating at the same level as an SME with a growing team of full-time staff. We need to continue to invest time and money to put in place an infrastructure that supports our membership but also enables us to grow the sport to meaningfully engage with the wider society.

We are losing Peter Caulfield and Daniela
O'Sullivan who are stepping down this year. Peter
has been a lifelong member of the Association
going back to his days in University College Galway
as we called it then. He was in his playing days a
goalkeeper and a referee who took a particular
interest in organisation and is a former President.
He became one of our first EHF Delegate's. Peter
will remain engaged in handball at committee and
project level.

Daniela made a seminal contribution in her time on the Board where she headed up the move to drive the development and professionalism of the promotion and social media work. These developments would not have been possible without her leadership and practical support.

Sadly, we lost a true friend to Irish Handball and the development of grassroots handball throughout Europe with the untimely death of Morten-Stig Christensen, the President of the Danish Handball Federation. He was a wonderful example to people across Europe, he will be greatly missed.

On the Senior level, a new club has been established in Cork and the League Competition has been added to with some additional competitions including a Beach tournament, changes to the OHI Cup to make it an open event and the Celtic Cup with Scotland. The visibility of the Senior game is improving, and we hope to see a big lift in the coming season.

Club funding and development will be a priority in the coming years and the availability of a new fullsize hall in Ballymun will have a positive impact, as will direct funding for clubs for development initiatives.

Ultimately, we want to create player pathways that can take children through from school's competitions to full international representative level, we are not quite there yet but the work we have done in this last year building on previous times has set us up for long term sustainable growth and development.

Yours in Handball
Fintan J Lyons | Director

# MESSAGE FROM THE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Dear Members, Partners, and Supporters of Olympic Handball Ireland.

As we close the year 2024, I am both proud and inspired by the progress and achievements of Olympic Handball Ireland. Our journey has been one of growth, resilience, and commitment to making handball a sport for all. This year, we have continued to build on our mission of expanding access, fostering talent, and creating vibrant handball communities throughout Ireland. We have embraced new challenges and forged partnerships that will strengthen the foundation of our sport for years to come.

One of our proudest milestones this year has been our rebranding initiative. This new look and identity are a celebration of the evolving energy within our community and our commitment to professionalism, inclusivity, and excellence. Our fresh brand has brought renewed enthusiasm from members and supporters alike, symbolizing the unity and strength of purpose that drives us forward.

On the international stage, our young athletes represented Ireland with pride at the Partille Cup, one of the most prestigious handball tournaments globally. Watching them compete with passion and integrity was a highlight of the year, and it confirmed that the future of handball in Ireland is bright. The experience they gained, coupled with their exemplary sportsmanship, has left a positive mark on the international handball community and raised Ireland's profile in the sport.

Our commitment to building robust, high-quality facilities took a significant step forward this year, thanks to our collaboration with Trinity Comprehensive School. Together, we embarked on a project to refurbish their hall to create a versatile handball space. This facility will serve as a training hub and competition venue, benefiting not only our players but also the wider community. Such partnerships are essential to fulfilling our vision of accessible, quality facilities across the country.

Participation has been at the heart of our efforts this year. We launched and expanded school programs, supported local competitions, and provided coaching and refereeing training across all age groups. We are particularly proud of our partnership with Age & Opportunity, which has enabled us to bring Walking Handball to new audiences. By training Age & Opportunity tutors, we have laid the groundwork for Walking Handball to reach communities nationwide, offering their members a new avenue for physical activity, social connection, and fun. This initiative exemplifies our dedication to making handball a sport for life, reaching everyone from children to seniors.

As we look to the future, our goals remain ambitious. We aim to further increase participation, elevate our standards in training and competitions, and secure new funding to sustain our momentum. To our members, volunteers, sponsors, and the many organizations that work with us, thank you. Your support has been instrumental in all we have accomplished, and it is through our collective efforts that handball in Ireland will continue to thrive.

2024 has seen a step change in activity for handball in Ireland - we are laying the foundations for a handball community in this country that opens up opportunities for friendship, fun and competition. We will strive to ensure that everyone who wants to enjoy our sport can do so at the level that's works for them.

João Ferreira | Operations Director

# KEY PROJECTS— HIGHLIGHTS

#### **REBRANDING**

One of our primary achievements this year was the rebranding of Olympic Handball Ireland. This new visual identity reflects our commitment to professionalism and inclusivity while celebrating the unique spirit of our sport. We have introduced a fresh logo and a vibrant colour palette to represent our dynamic community. This rebranding initiative is more than just a visual change; it is a testament to our renewed commitment to growing the sport at both grassroots and elite levels.

The response to our rebranding has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are excited to see our updated identity in action, fostering a stronger sense of unity among players, coaches, and supporters.

Last year, Olympic Handball Ireland (OHI) introduced a new look to mark an important moment for the organization. This change was not just about updating our appearance; it showed our strong commitment to being professional, inclusive, and celebrating the exciting spirit of handball.

#### **NEW LOOK**

We created a new logo and chose bright colors to represent our lively and diverse community. This fresh design combined tradition with a modern feel, highlighting our aim to welcome and support athletes and fans in a professional way.











The rebranding focused on key values: being professional, inclusive, and fostering community spirit. These values were central to our new identity, guiding us as we worked to grow the sport at all levels, from beginners to elite players. Our commitment was clear in how we aimed to support talent, encourage participation, and unite players, coaches, and fans.

# **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

The response to the rebranding was very positive. Our community and partners embraced the new look, sharing our vision for a bright future for handball in Ireland. The updated identity helped strengthen pride and connection among our members, opening up new opportunities for growth and collaboration.

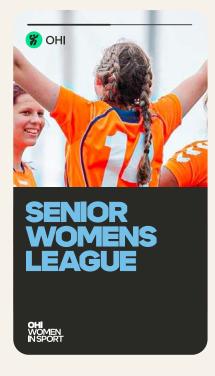




#### SUPPORTING GROWTH

The rebranding was more than just a visual change; it is part of our strategic plan to expand handball. We expect to attract new players and partners by creating a recognizable and unified identity, boosting the sport's reach across Ireland. This renewed energy pushes us forward, aligning with our mission to promote handball both nationally and internationally.







# PARTILLE CUP: IRISH TEAM ON THE WORLD STAGE

This year, we were thrilled to send our talented team from Kerry — St. Brendan's College to represent Ireland at the Partille Cup in Gothenburg Sweden, one of the world's largest and most prestigious handball tournaments. The experience provided invaluable exposure for our athletes, who competed with teams from around the globe, gaining skills, friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Our participation in the Partille Cup marked an important step in raising Ireland's profile on the international handball scene. Our teams' dedication, sportsmanship, and performance left a lasting impression, setting a high standard for future international participation. Olympic Handball Ireland remains committed to supporting our athletes with these global opportunities, fostering their development and enhancing Ireland's reputation in handball.











#### FACILITY DEVELOPMENT: TRINITY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HALL RENOVATION

Through a successful application under the Sports Capital Funding and in partnership with Trinity Comprehensive School in Ballymun, Dublin, we have initiated a significant facility development project to renovate the school hall. This renovation will provide enhanced indoor space for handball, equipped to support high-quality training and competition.

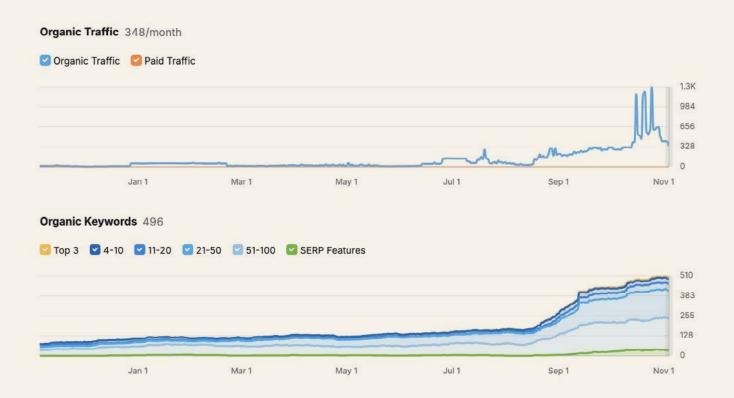
This project also reflects our ongoing mission to invest in quality facilities that promote accessibility and inclusivity for the handball community. The upgraded hall at Trinity Comprehensive will benefit not only Olympic Handball Ireland but also the broader school and local community of Ballymun. We extend our gratitude to Trinity Comprehensive for their collaboration and commitment to growing handball in Ireland.

# MARKETING REPORT



Following the successful rebranding, Olympic Handball Ireland turned its focus to strengthening its Social Media & Digital Presence, a crucial element in today's interconnected world.

Our digital strategies have played a vital role in amplifying the rebranding efforts, enhancing our visibility, and fostering deeper engagement with our community. Through targeted social media campaigns and a robust online presence, we've been able to share the spirit of handball far and wide, bringing together players, fans, and partners. The next section explains how our digital efforts have boosted our brand and helped grow and promote handball in Ireland.



#### 1. SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL PRESENCE

#### 1.1 GROWTHMETRICS

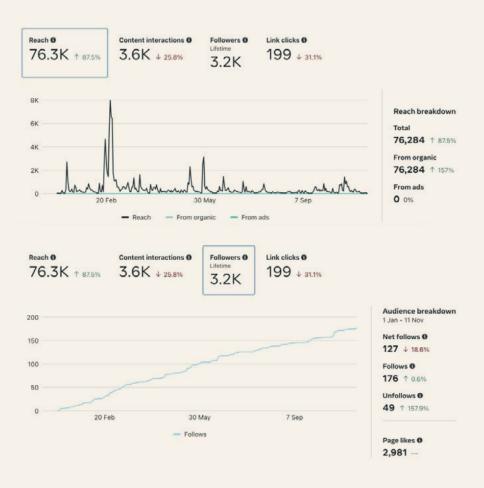
Website traffic has remarkably improved in the last 6 months especially. Our web traffic is on average 30x higher than it was at the start of the year, thanks to investments in improving UX and web content. Now, we average 1k users per month.

### THE MOST VISITED PAGES ON OUR SITE ARE, IN ORDER:

Page title and screen class	Views	Active users	Views per active users
01. What is Olympic Handball	11,443	6,039	1.89
02. Olympic Handball Ireland - OHI	8,093	2,981	2.71
03. Primary School Competition	1,135	468	2.43
04. Olympic Handball Senior League	1,082	503	2.15
05. Secondary School Competition	440	209	2.11
06. OHI Beach Handball Championship 2024 Schedule Released!	347	165	2.10
07. Celtic Cup 2024/25 Dates Announced - Ireland Prepares to Host the Group Stage	329	152	2.16
08. Our People	323	202	1.60
09. Women's Handball Ireland	316	201	1.57
10. Olympic Handball For Kids: The Rules Of Mini Handball & What Equipment You Need	302	140	2.16
Total	<b>28,374</b> 100% of total	<b>10,587</b> 100% of total	<b>2.68</b> Avg 0%



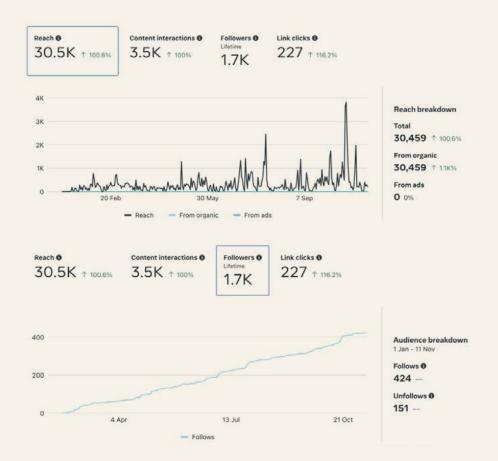
Facebook reach skyrocketed by an impressive 87.5% vs last year, all without any ad spend. The page's follower base also continues to expand, now standing at 3.2K. Although engagement and link clicks saw a slight dip, the increased reach reflects a wider audience discovering and connecting with Olympic Handball Ireland.





#### **INSTAGRAM**

Instagram reach doubled to 30.5K, content interactions also saw a 100% boost, reaching 3.5K, while link clicks surged by an impressive 116.2% to 227. The page's follower base grew significantly, reaching a lifetime total of 1.7K.

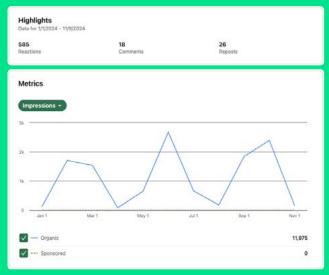


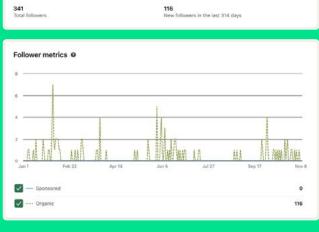


#### **LINKEDIN**

Linkedin achieved steady growth with 11,975 organic impressions. Engagement was solid, with 585 reactions, 18 comments, and 26 reposts, showing active interaction within the network. The page gained 116 new followers over the year, bringing the total follower count to 341.

Follower highlights 9





#### **1.2. CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Across all platforms, Olympic Handball Ireland's most successful content in 2024 centered on Event-Based and Competitive Content, with posts about tournaments, recaps, and results—such as the Masters Cup, Celtic Cup, and Senior League—garnering the highest impressions and engagement. Followers responded strongly to event-driven posts that celebrated achievements and milestones, reflecting their enthusiasm for handball's competitive spirit.

On LinkedIn, Community and Development Announcements resonated particularly well; updates like the rebranding to Olympic
Handball Ireland and the government
grant announcement for refurbishing the
Dome aligned with the professional interests
of the platform's audience, positioning the
organization as both evolving and impactful.

Visual Engagement on Instagram was also a standout, with event highlights and teaser videos performing exceptionally well. Instagram followers were highly engaged with visually dynamic posts that captured the action, excitement, and unique atmosphere of handball events.



Here is a breakdown of the top-performing content per platform.

#### **FACEBOOK**

#### OI. MASTERS CUP ANNOUNCEMENT

(May 2024)

Impressions: 7,662

Reach: 7,662

**Interactions:** 91 (from a mix of likes, comments, and shares)

Summary: This post highlighted the prestigious Masters Handball World Cup, celebrating the achievements of the Irish teams. With impressive reach and shares from both followers and nonfollowers, this post demonstrated strong interest in international events and recognition for Irish teams competing on a global stage.

### **02. CELTIC CUP FINALS RECAP**

(February 2024)

Impressions: 7,478

Reach: 7,082

Interactions: 66 with 37 link clicks

Summary: This engaging post recapped the high-energy Celtic Cup Finals, celebrating the accomplishments of the top teams. The coverage of intense matches and the final results resonated well with the audience, showcasing the excitement of the Celtic Cup and fostering a strong sense of community engagement.

#### 03. SENIOR LEAGUE RESULTS

(May 2024)

Impressions: 5,448

**Reach:** 5,355

Interactions: 58

Summary: This post announced the results of the Senior League, with Astra and Dublin City Handball as standout teams. The high reach and engagement illustrate the audience's interest in local league updates and achievements, further supporting the value of competition-based content.







#### **INSTAGRAM**

# **01. CELTIC CUP**WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

(October 2024)

Impressions: 7,411

Reach: 5,263

Interactions: 250

Summary: Featuring dynamic visuals from the Celtic Cup weekend, this post provided a comprehensive recap of exciting moments, attracting high engagement and shares. Instagram's visual format amplified the impact of the content, as followers enjoyed seeing highlights from the games and player actions.

# 02.BEACH HANDBALL FINALS

(July 2024)

Impressions: 4,187

Reach: 3,182

**Interactions: 157** 

Summary: This post showcased the unique atmosphere of the Beach Handball Finals, held at Balbriggan Beach. The appeal of a summer sport with vibrant visuals led to strong audience engagement, underscoring the effectiveness of seasonal content on Instagram.

## **03. CELTIC CUP TEASER VIDEO**

(October 2024)

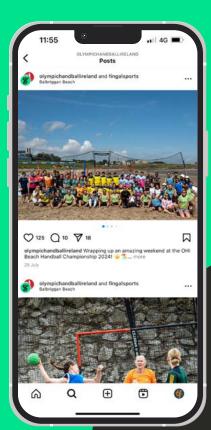
Impressions: 5,732

Reach: 3,789

Interactions: 123

Summary: This teaser video built excitement for the upcoming Celtic Cup by highlighting teams and key players, driving significant reach and engagement. The teaser format worked well in capturing audience attention and encouraging them to stay tuned for event updates.







ANNUAL REPORT 2024

#### **LINKEDIN**

## **01. NEW NAME ANNOUNCEMENT**

(February 2024)

Impressions: 1,641

Reactions: 57 likes and 5 reposts

Summary: This post introduced the rebranding of IOHA to Olympic Handball Ireland, marking a significant organizational change. The professional community on LinkedIn responded positively, showing strong support and engagement for the new brand identity.

## 02. GOVERNMENT GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

(September 2024)

Impressions: 1,335

**Clicks: 29 (CTR of 4.02%)** 

Summary: This announcement of €475K funding for refurbishing the 'Dome' at Trinity Comprehensive School in Ballymun resonated with LinkedIn's professional audience. The post's engagement highlights the interest in infrastructure and community projects, which align with LinkedIn users' focus on development and growth.

# 08. WORLD HANDBALL DAY CELEBRATION

(July 2024)

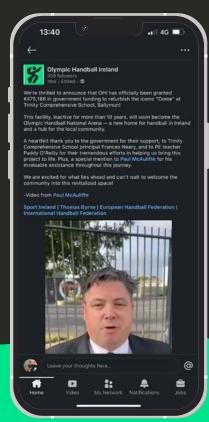
Impressions: 706

Click-Through Rate: 40%

**Engagement Rate:** 44.9%

Summary: This post celebrated the history and global popularity of Olympic Handball, connecting with a broad audience by tapping into the sport's international significance. The high engagement rate and click-through rate reflect the audience's interest in learning more about the sport's heritage, enhancing community pride and awareness.







#### 1.3 PLATFORM UPDATE

In 2024, Olympic Handball Ireland did not launch any new social media platforms, instead, we focused on expanding our presence and engagement on existing channels: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. There were, however, some **strategy shifts** including **Increased Use of Instagram Stories** plus, we invested more in **cohesive campaigns across platforms**, like the Celtic Cup teaser campaign, which utilized social media in harmony with email and web content to create consistent content, tailored to the audience's preferences on that platform or channel.

#### 1.4 NOTABLE CAMPAIGNS

### **01. FEBRUARY:** REBRAND

**Objective:** Announce the transition from IOHA to OHI, highlighting a new era and modernized brand identity.

#### **Key Activity:**

- Press release sent to local PR outlets.
- · News update on OHI website.
- Posts across all social platforms.
- Website revamp and unveiling of new branded merchandise at games.

#### Impact:

- LinkedIn: 1,641 impressions.
- Instagram Reel: 1,600 impressions.
- Facebook: 430 impressions.
- Cumulative Social Reach: 3,671 impressions.

### 02. MARCH: WOMENINSPORT

Objective: Align with Sport Ireland's initiative, positioning OHI as an advocate for women in sports and encouraging female participation.

#### **Key Activity:**

- Campaign focused on highlighting stories of female players in the OHI community.
- Content included a blog post, email, and series of social posts.

#### Impact:

- Social Impressions: 2,768 across
   IG + FB.
- Coaching Course: Funded session with 6 women participating.

#### 03. MAY: MASTER'S CUP

**Objective:** Provide post-event updates and showcase results.

#### **Key Activity:**

- Shared event content and results across social and website.
- Two Facebook posts.

#### Impact:

Facebook Impressions: 7.7k.









## 04. JULY: PARTILLE CUP

**Objective:** Highlight international youth sports opportunities.

#### **Key Activity:**

- Week-long live content from the multi-day event, with posts on stories and feeds.
- 3 IG & FB posts, 1 LinkedIn post, 1 blog, and 4 collaborative posts with @fingalsports and @stbrendanskillarney.
- 27 pieces of UGC contributed to record-high Instagram reach and profile visits.

#### Impact:

 Social Reach: 9k across IG and LinkedIn.

## **05. JULY: BEACHHANDBALL**

**Objective:** Increase competition participation throughout the beach handball season.

#### **Key Activity:**

- Two-month campaign on social and web.
- Content included 3 IG & FB posts and 2 blog posts, with news updates and improved beach handball landing page.

#### Impact:

- Social Impressions: 8.6k across
   IG and FB
- Participation: 100 people among players and spectators across the 2 days of competition.

## 06. SEPTEMBER: SENIOR LEAGUE

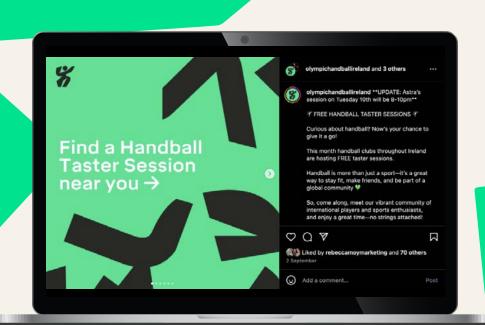
**Objective:** Promote participation for the start of the 24/25 season.

#### **Key Activity:**

- Collaboration with senior league clubs to host 9 taster events.
- Communication through Facebook groups, email, and social platforms.

#### Impact:

• **Registrations:** 280 registrations between men and women.



### 07. SEPTEMBER: SCHOOLS REGISTRATION

#### **Objective:**

Boost school registrations across all levels.

#### **Key Activity:**

 Targeted email campaign using Mailchimp, focusing on secondary schools, inactive primary regions, and active primary regions. Total of 10 emails

#### Impact:

- Average Open Rate: 37%
- Click Rate: 2.2%
- Schools Registered: 81
- Revenue from Handball Packs: €2,162

### 08. OCTOBER: CELTIC CUP GROUP STAGES

#### Objective:

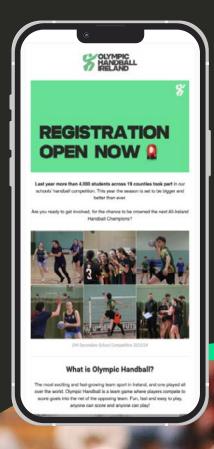
Engage audiences with teaser/countdown, live coverage, and match updates.

#### **Key Activity:**

- Countdown stage, live game coverage on social media, and updates on OHI website.
- Livestream of 12 games on YouTube.

#### Impact:

- Livestream Views: 4.4k
- Watch Hours: 672.9
- New Youtube Subscribers: 54 (24% growth, totaling 279).
- Social Impressions: 6.8k total across FB and IG







# 2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SPONSORSHIP ACTIVATION

#### 2.1EVENT MARKETING EFFORTS

#### **OHI BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024**

The OHI Beach Handball Competition, supported by Fingal County Council, was an event designed to showcase the sport of beach handball and engage a wide audience. The marketing strategy for this competition revolves around a combination of local, regional, and digital marketing efforts to ensure maximum visibility and community involvement.

#### **Social Media and Digital Campaigns:**

The Fingal County Council leverages its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to engage with both the local community and the wider sporting audience. Regular updates, behind-the-scenes content, and promotional posts help build excitement leading up to the event.

#### CELTIC CUP 24/25

The Handball Celtic Cup, sponsored by Dublin Outdoors, is a high-profile event that brings together elite handball teams from Ireland and Scotland to compete. The marketing efforts for this event are designed to emphasize both the competitive nature of the sport and Dublin Outdoors' role in supporting outdoor and adventure sports.

#### Social Media and Digital Campaigns:

Dublin Outdoors uses its social media platforms to engage with a wider audience, sharing athlete interviews, training sessions, and teaser videos in the lead-up to the competition. Interactive content like polls, live updates during the event, and post-event highlights help to drive engagement and build excitement.



# CELTIC CUP 24/25 dublinsoutdoors.ie

Main partner and sponsor: **Dublin Outdoors**(South Dublin County Council)

# SCHOOL COMPETITION

Main partners:
Meath Sports Partnership, Cork
Sports Partnership,
Sligo Sports Office,
Limerick Sports Partnership,
Wexford Sports Partnership,
Monaghan Sports Partnership,
Kerry Sports Partnership.



Main partner and sponsor:

Volleyball Ireland and Meath
Sports Partnership

#### 2.3 MEMBERSHIP DATA

Number of players participating?	22/23	23/24	24/25
Primary schools	2100	3924	4356
Secondary schools	0	336	532
Third Level	64	96	96
Senior Mens - Club	116	116	145
Senior womens - Club	116	145	145
Beach Handball	80	80	100

#### 2.4 PARTILLE EVENT AND TRIP

The St. Brendan's College Boys U16 handball team had a memorable experience at the Partille World Cup 2024 in Sweden. Though they didn't win, they demonstrated resilience, forged international friendships, and gained valuable life and sportsmanship lessons. The journey included competitive matches, cultural exchanges, and the thrill of representing Ireland. The trip was supported by coaches, parents, and the community, leaving the boys with lifelong memories.

For further details, see the full story: www.olympichandball.org/-st-brendan-s-college-boys-u16-team-shines-at-partille-world-cup-2024-a-journey-beyond-victories

#### 3. MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### 3.1 MEDIA EXPOSURE

**"Push for handball growth in Ireland"**, Go Handball, Feb 2024. Source: **gohandball.com/europe/push-for-handball-growth-in-ireland** 

"Ireland was back at Partille World Cup"

Source: partillecup.com/en/post/ireland-was-back-at-partille-world-cup

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

# PARTICIPATION REPORT

In 2024, Olympic Handball Ireland placed a strong focus on broadening participation across all age groups, from primary school children to senior players. Through strategic partnerships, expanded school programs, and innovative offerings, we have been able to reach more participants than ever before. Below are highlights from our efforts this year:

#### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Handball is thriving in schools, with significant growth in both primary and secondary school competitions. This year, we hosted multiple school tournaments that allowed young players to experience the excitement of competition in a supportive environment. Participation increased by average of 30% compared to last year, with schools from new regions joining the competition. These tournaments continue to be an excellent entry point for young athletes, sparking enthusiasm for the sport from an early age.

Handball by sector	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Primary schools	56	95	125
Secondary schools	-	10	15

No of teams playing in OHI competitions	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Primary schools	150	327	363
Secondary schools	-	24	40

# SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES (LSPS)

Our school programs have expanded significantly, thanks to the support and collaboration with Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) across the country. Working with LSPs has allowed us to bring handball to schools in underserved areas, enhancing the accessibility of our sport. These programs offer students an introduction to handball, fostering physical literacy, teamwork, and fitness.

Our relationship with LSPs has been instrumental in delivering handball sessions to schools, providing resources, and encouraging youth participation in a structured environment. We plan to continue these partnerships, working closely with LSPs to make handball an accessible option for schools nationwide.

#### TRANSITION YEAR (TY) PROGRAMS

Our Transition Year (TY) programs offer students the chance to deepen their understanding of handball beyond the court. This year, our TY modules included coaching, refereeing, and event management, providing students with valuable life skills while promoting a lasting connection to the sport. We were pleased to see over 1,000 TY students complete our program in 2024, reflecting a strong interest among teens in handball as both a recreational activity and a pathway for personal development.

#### **WALKING HANDBALL**

Walking Handball has become an increasingly popular option for older participants and newcomers to the sport, allowing us to extend handball's reach to a broader demographic. This year, we established an exciting partnership with Age & Opportunity, an organization dedicated to promoting active lifestyles among older adults. Together, we provided specialized training to Age & Opportunity tutors, empowering them to deliver Walking Handball sessions to their members nationwide. This collaboration allows us to introduce handball as an alternative sport to Age & Opportunity's network, encouraging physical activity and community engagement across Ireland.

Through Walking Handball, we are creating a welcoming, inclusive environment that accommodates all fitness levels, promoting lifelong participation and well-being. We look forward to growing this program further, with plans to expand its reach and make handball accessible to even more communities.

#### **HANDBALL CAMPS**

Our handball camps saw record attendance this year, providing young athletes with training opportunities during school holidays. These camps offered skill development, drills, and friendly competitions, catering to both beginners and experienced players. Due to the overwhelming response, we plan to increase the frequency and reach of these camps in 2025.

In summary, our participation programs in 2024 have laid the groundwork for sustained growth across all age groups and abilities. These initiatives have allowed us to build stronger community connections, support local schools, and provide accessible entry points for new players. Olympic Handball Ireland is committed to maintaining and expanding these programs to ensure handball remains an accessible, inclusive, and vibrant sport across Ireland.

#### **OHI OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATION**

This year, Olympic Handball Ireland (OHI) provided significant support and opportunities for our dedicated volunteers.

#### 01.

Two of our referees attended numerous events, including an international beach handball event in France, enhancing their expertise and exposure.

#### 02.

One volunteer from Astra HC advanced to become a beach handball delegate, a valuable asset to our team.

#### 03.

One volunteer from Dublin City HC participated in a club development course funded by OHI, bolstering her skills to aid local clubs.

#### 04.

Additionally, a student from UCD attended a conference in Scotland, presenting her research with OHI covering the expenses.

These initiatives reflect OHI's commitment to volunteer development and the future of handball in Ireland.

# WOMEN IN SPORT REPORT

Olympic Handball Ireland (OHI) remains deeply committed to promoting gender equality in sport, and we have worked hard over the past year to create opportunities for women and girls to participate, lead, and develop in handball. A key focus has been on initiatives that provide women with the skills, confidence, and support they need to thrive in the sport.



# **01. WALKING HANDBALL SESSIONS FOR SENIOR ADULTS**CORDUFF, DUBLIN

OHI continued with weekly **Walking Handball sessions** for senior adults in **Corduff, Dublin**, aiming to engage older women in an inclusive, low-impact sport. These sessions offered a fun, social way for participants to stay active and connect with their local community, promoting physical and mental health. The ongoing success of these sessions demonstrates the importance of providing sporting opportunities for women of all ages, and the sessions have been well-attended by the local senior population.inclusive, and vibrant sport across Ireland.

# **02. HERMOVES LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**MEATH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

As part of the **HerMoves Leadership Programme**, an initiative led by **Meath Local Sports Partnership**, OHI supported the involvement of teenage girls in leadership roles within sport. Students from participating schools had the opportunity to choose from a variety of sports to be coached in, and **Olympic Handball** was selected by all of the schools involved.

More than **100** teenage girls completed an Olympic Handball workshop, where they were trained as coaches and gained valuable experience in delivering handball sessions to younger students in their schools. The programme culminated in a **fun day of Olympic Handball**, where all participants came together to play the sport they had learned. This programme not only introduced young girls to handball but also empowered them to become leaders and role models within their schools and communities.

# **03.WOMEN IN SPORT SERIES**WIS WEEK

During Women in Sport Week (WIS Week), OHI hosted a Women in Sport series, which featured prominent female leaders from our handball clubs. These events provided a platform for female role models to share their personal experiences, insights into overcoming challenges, and strategies for success in the sporting world. The series was designed to inspire other women and girls to pursue leadership roles in sport, whether as coaches, administrators, or players.

# **04. WOMEN'S HANDBALL CONFERENCE**EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION (EHF) JUNE 2024. BUDAPEST

In June 2024, OHI had the privilege of participating in the **Women's Handball Conference** hosted by the **European Handball Federation (EHF)** in **Budapest**. This event brought together leaders from the international handball community to discuss strategies and initiatives aimed at increasing women's participation and leadership in handball. OHI's presence at the conference underscored our commitment to advancing the development of women's handball, gaining insights from best practices across Europe, and strengthening our connections within the wider handball community.





OHI participated in **Her Outdoors Week**, a national initiative aimed at encouraging women to get outdoors and try new activities. OHI collaborated with **Local Sports Partnerships** in **Wicklow, Meath, and Fingal** to deliver a series of handball taster sessions, fitness workshops, and mini-competitions. The week was a fantastic opportunity to introduce more women to handball and promote the sport as an accessible, fun, and social activity. Women from various backgrounds participated in these activities, showing a growing interest in outdoor sports and handball as a way to stay active.

# 06. LEVEL 10LYMPIC HANDBALL COACHING COURSE FUNDED BY WIS PROJECT

As part of our commitment to increasing female participation in coaching, OHI facilitated the **participation** of 7 women in the Level 1 Olympic Handball coaching course, funded by the Women in Sport (WIS) project. The women who participated in this course included women from clubs, teachers, and members of the general public, all of whom were keen to develop their coaching skills and contribute to the growth of handball in their communities.

This initiative provided participants with the knowledge and confidence to deliver high-quality handball coaching sessions and, in many cases, inspired them to take on more active roles within their clubs and schools. By offering this coaching qualification, OHI is empowering women to not only take part in handball but to lead and shape its future development in Ireland.

# COMPETITIONS REPORT

2024 was a busy year for handball competitions across Ireland, with increased participation in both adult and youth categories. Highlights included:

#### **NATIONAL HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Handball by sector	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Third Level	3	3	3
Senior Club men's teams	5	6	7
Senior Club women's teams	5	6	7

No of teams playing in OHI competitions	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Third Level	4	6	6
Senior men's - Club	4	4	5
Senior women's - Club	4	5	5

Number of players participating	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Third Level	64	96	96
Senior men's - Club	116	116	145
Senior women's - Club	116	145	145



#### **SCHOOL LEAGUES**

Handball by sector	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Primary schools	56	95	125
Second level schools	-	10	15

No of teams playing in OHI competitions	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Primary schools	150	327	363
Secondary schools	-	24	40

Number of players participating	Season		
	22/23	23/24	24/25
Primary schools	2100	3924	4440
Secondary schools	-	336	560

# CELTIC CUP OVERVIEW OF THE 2023-2024 CELTIC CUP SEASON AND THE FINAL-4 IN LISBURN

The 2023-2024 season of the Celtic Cup saw top handball clubs from Ireland and Scotland competing in high-stakes matches, culminating in the much-anticipated Final-4. This tournament, which strengthens the rivalry between Irish and Scottish clubs, showcased impressive talent and competitive spirit.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEASON

The 2023-2024 season of the Celtic Cup saw top handball clubs from Ireland and Scotland competing in high-stakes matches, culminating in the much-anticipated Final-4. This tournament, which strengthens the rivalry between Irish and Scottish clubs, showcased impressive talent and competitive spirit.

#### 01.

#### **Competitive Format**

Teams from Ireland and Scotland played qualification stage in Edinburgh, with matches determining the top four advancing to the semi-finals.

#### 02.

#### **Standout Performances**

Players delivered standout performances, with several emerging talents making their mark.

Both offensive and defensive skills were on full display, as each team aimed to secure a spot in Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

#### **FINAL-4 IN LISBURN**

The Final-4, held in Lisburn, offered a thrilling conclusion to the season, with fans from both nations gathering to support their teams.

#### O1. Semi-Finals

The semi-final matchups were intense, with teams pushing to secure their place in the championship game. Each club displayed strategic adjustments and showcased key players who rose to the occasion under the heightened pressure.

#### **02.** Finals and Awards

The final game kept spectators on edge, as the top teams from Ireland and Scotland battled for the title.

Women's Division		
1. Champions	Edinburgh Handball	
2. Second Place	Tryst77 Handball Club	
3. Third Place	Astra Handball Club	
4. Fourth Place	Dublin City Handball	

Men's Division		
1. Champions	Livingston Handball	
2. Second Place	Dublin City Handball	
3. Third Place	Dublin International Handball Club	
4. Fourth Place	EK82 Handball Club	

#### **03.** Impact on Irish and Scottish Handball:

The 2023-2024 Celtic Cup Final-4 served as a valuable platform for talent development and solidified the growing popularity of handball across both nations. This season's success has set the stage for continued growth and future rivalries in Celtic handball.





# NATIONAL BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 BRIEFREPORT

The 2024 National Beach Handball Championship marked a successful milestone for the growth of beach handball in Ireland. Held in Balbriggan Beach, the championship brought together teams from across the country, showcasing the sport's rising popularity and appeal among players and fans alike.

#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### 01.

#### **Increased Participation**

This year's championship saw a notable increase in team registrations (eight), reflecting beach handball's growing appeal within Ireland's handball community. Teams displayed impressive skill and athleticism, energizing both fans and players.

#### 02.

#### **Competitive Matches**

The tournament featured competitive matches, with teams demonstrating remarkable techniques unique to beach handball, including dynamic shots and agile defensive moves. The fast-paced games kept spectators engaged, highlighting the sport's entertaining nature.

#### 03.

#### **Community and Atmosphere**

The event fostered a lively atmosphere, with a mix of enthusiastic supporters and first-time spectators, furthering public engagement.

#### Championship Outcomes

After intense matches, the championship concluded as:

Women's		Men's	
1. Champions	Astra	1. Champions	Boys in Green
2. Runners-Up	DCH	2. Runners-Up	DCH
3. Third Place	Celtic Legends	3. Third Place	Brazucas

The 2024 National Beach Handball Championship reinforced the momentum behind beach handball in Ireland, setting a strong foundation for further development and interest in the coming years.

The dedication of our athletes and coaches has been extraordinary, as they have worked hard to elevate the standard of competition at every level. We are committed to continuing this trajectory by investing in resources, training programs, and league expansion.

# ANTI-DOPING REPORT

#### **KEY POINTS**

Olympic Handball Ireland like all National Governing Bodies of sport in Ireland are subject to the Anti-Doping rules as laid out by Sport Ireland.

All member Federations of the International Handball Federation are required to provide Anti-Doping Education and so comply with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules.

The e-learning course covers key topics in anti-doping including the following:

- · Anti-doping rule violations
- Testing procedures blood & urine
- How to check medications
- Therapeutic Use Exemptions
- The risk of supplements and herbal remedies
- Consequences of doping
- At the very end, a certificate of completion will generate, which all athletes and coaches are encouraged to save this for own records.
- · New World Anti-Doping Agency rules which will come into effect on the 1st of January 2025.
- The International Handball Federation (IHF) and European Handball Federation (EHF) websites both now have a comprehensive Anti-Doping section.

#### **COACH AND PLAYER EDUCATION**

Education provides us with an opportunity to promote positive values and ethical behaviours, protect clean athletes and preserve the spirit of sport. It allows us to reach and impact broad audiences, building knowledge and understanding to support clean sport.

- Irish handball players continue to remain outside Sport Ireland's Registered Testing Pool of athletes. www.olympichandball.org/sports-anti-doping-policy
- The OHI Website is updated annually with up-to-date regulations and other information
- All players and Coaches are encouraged to complete the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping e-learning course.
   This online course is included on the curriculum of the Level 1 and Level 2 coaching awards.
   www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping-e-learning



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



35

# **GOVERNANCE REPORT**

Olympic Handball Ireland is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is registered with the Company Registrations Office.

Olympic Handball Ireland like all National Governing Bodies for sport in Ireland is required to be compliant with the Sport Ireland Governance Code. At the beginning of 2024 the Board began a recruitment campaign to identify potential new members to join the association, this search was carried out with assistance of Boardmatch. The Board recognised the need for a new Treasurer and for an individual with governance experience. Boardmatch were able to identify a number of candidates for each role and following an interview process 2 individuals were selected to join the Board.

The Board of Olympic Handball Ireland are delighted that Ms. Pamela Bastable and Ms. Maria Byrne accepted our invitation to join OHI and they both have contributed a lot to the Olympic Handball Ireland in the 10 months since.

The addition of these 2 Board members combined with the presence of Ms. Daniela O'Sullivan ensured that we met the 40% gender quota as set out by Sport Ireland and the Irish Government. The gender quota is due to rise to 50% in 2026 and the Board of OHI will need to reach compliance with this in order to maintain our funding from Sport Ireland.

Olympic Handball Ireland, following recent discussions with Sport Ireland and the European Handball Federation, commissioned an external audit of our governance systems and the Board of Directors have approved a governance roadmap to ensure the organisation is operating with good governance across all areas of the business.





### Key governance areas Olympic Handball will address in 2025

- Update to the constitution of Olympic Handball Ireland with any changes to the constitution requiring approval by full members at a general meeting.
- The strengthening of the sub-committee structure of Olympic Handball Ireland with robust Terms of Reference. Among the sub-committees that will be put in place there will be:
  - o A Finance Risk and Audit Committee
  - o A Competitions Committee
  - o A Governance Committee

Governance is an agenda point at all Olympic Handball Ireland Board meetings, and it reflects the importance that Sport Ireland and wider society places on the correct expenditure of public funds etc. The work of the Board is not contained to the monthly Board meeting.

# Below is a list of some of the events that members of the Olympic Handball Ireland Board have attended in 2024:

Scheduled Monthly Board meetings.	11
Ad hoc Board meetings.	5
Olympic Federation of Ireland AGM	1
Handball Forum Europe	2
Sport Ireland Secretaries Conference	1
Sport Irelands Exectives Seminars	2
Sport Ireland Chairpersons Networking Event	1
Project; Trinity Comprehensive School	7
Sport Ireland Governance Conference	1
EHF Anti-Doping Executive Webinars	2
Olympic Federation of Ireland Marketing Networking event	2
Olympic Federation of Ireland Strategy Session	1

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024** 

# SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone involved in our sport is paramount. Olympic Handball Ireland remains fully dedicated to upholding the highest safeguarding standards. In 2024, we implemented several initiatives to strengthen our safeguarding framework:

### 01.

### **Comprehensive Training**

Coaches, volunteers, and staff members participated in safeguarding workshops, ensuring they are wellequipped to provide a safe environment for our athletes.

### 02.

# Updated Policies and Procedures

We have reviewed and enhanced our safeguarding policies, ensuring they meet national and international standards.

### 03.

### Enhanced Reporting Mechanisms

We introduced a streamlined reporting system, making it easier for athletes, parents, and staff to report any safeguarding concerns.

Our commitment to safeguarding remains steadfast, and we will continue to assess and refine our practices to protect the well-being of our entire community.



# REPORT ON "INJURIES IN HANDBALL PLAYERS WHAT COACHES NEED TO KNOW"

**Conference:** European College of Sport Science (ECSS) 2024, Glasgow. **Presenter & Supervisor:** Giulia Andreottola & Professor Domenico Crognale **Institution:** Institute for Sport & Health, University College Dublin, Ireland.

Date: 5th June 2024.

### INTRODUCTION

The presentation titled "Injuries in Handball Players: What Coaches Need to Know" provided a comprehensive analysis of injuries sustained by male and female handball players over three competitive seasons. The focus was on understanding the types, frequency, and mechanisms of injuries to inform coaches on best practices for injury prevention and management.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENTATION**

The primary objective was to shed light on injury patterns among handball players and to offer actionable insights for coaches to minimize the risk of injuries. The study aimed to:

- Identify the most common types of injuries in handball
- Highlight the differences in injury rates between male and female players
- Provide recommendations for tailored training programs based on the findings

### SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION

Overview of Handball and Injury Risks: The presentation began with an introduction to the sport of handball, emphasizing its physical demands and the resulting high injury risk.

Injury Categorization: Injuries were categorized into acute and chronic types, with examples provided for each category. Acute injuries were described as those occurring suddenly due to impact or falls, while chronic injuries developed over time from repetitive strain.

Study Design and Methodology: The research analyzed data from 154 matches across three seasons (2021/2022 to 2023/2024) in different tournaments (National League, National Cup, Celtic Cup). Results: A total of 58 injuries were recorded.

The most frequently injured body parts were:

KNEE 22.5% | ANKLE 19% | FACE 14% | NECK 5%

Gender disparity was observed, with women experiencing a higher incidence of knee injuries compared to men.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 39

### **KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### 01.

### **Gender Disparity**

The analysis revealed a significant difference in injury rates between male and female players, particularly concerning knee injuries. This suggests a need for gender-specific prevention strategies.

### 02.

### **Injury Mechanisms**

The frequent body contact, rapid direction changes, and high-speed play in handball were identified as key contributors to the high injury rates.

### 03.

### **Impact on Training**

The findings emphasize the importance of incorporating targeted strength and conditioning programs, especially focusing on knee and ankle stability.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COACHES**

### 01.

### **Injury Prevention Programs**

Coaches should implement training programs that enhance the strength and flexibility of key body parts prone to injury, such as the knees and ankles.

### 02

### Tailored Training for Female Athletes

Considering the higher injury rates among female players, it is crucial to develop training routines that address their specific anatomical and physiological needs, particularly focusing on reducing the risk of ACL injuries.

### 03.

### **Education on Safe Techniques**

Coaches should educate players on proper movement techniques and injury risks to reduce the likelihood of preventable injuries.

40

### FEEDBACK AND DISCUSSIONS

The presentation sparked an engaging discussion among attendees, particularly regarding the gender-specific differences in injury rates and the need for more targeted research in this area. Participants highlighted the importance of using these findings to inform the development of customized training and prevention programs for athletes.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENTATION**

The study's findings suggest several areas for future research, including:

- · A deeper analysis of the mechanisms leading to gender disparities in injury rates
- · Longitudinal studies to track the effectiveness of targeted injury prevention programs
- Further exploration of non-contact injuries and their prevention in handball

# **CONCLUSION**

In 2024, Olympic Handball Ireland made substantial strides, marked by a fresh brand, increased international engagement, strengthened infrastructure, and a reinforced commitment to safety. As we look forward, we aim to continue this momentum, building on our achievements to further elevate handball in Ireland.

Thank you to all members, athletes, coaches, parents, sponsors, and supporters for making this a remarkable year. Together, we are shaping a bright future for handball in Ireland.



# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee Annual Report and Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee CONTENTS

	Page
Directors and Other Information	3
Directors' Report	4 - 5
Directors' Responsibilities Statement	6
Independent Auditor's Report	7 - 8
Appendix to the Independent Auditor's Report	9
Income Statement	10
Statement of Financial Position	11
Statement of Changes in Equity	12
Cash Flow Statement	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 - 19
Supplementary Information on Income and Expenditure Account	21

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

**Directors** Fintan Lyons

Michael Moloney

Andrea Ongaro (Appointed 14 August 2023)

Company Secretary Michael Moloney

Company Number 454641

Registered Office and Business Address Irish Sport HQ

National Sports Campus

Blanchardstown Dublin 15

Auditors Whiteside Cullinan

Registered Auditor and Chartered Accountants

Fleming Court Fleming's Place Dublin 4 D04N4X9

Bankers Bank of Ireland

Priorsgate Greenhills Road Dublin 24 D24 YX89 Ireland

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

### **Principal Activity and Review of the Business**

The company promotes the sport of olympic handball in Ireland.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

There has been no significant change in these activities during the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited By Guarantee receives financial support from the Government and from sporting federations. The possibility of these grants being reduced in future is the principal uncertainty facing the organisation.

### **Financial Results**

The surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €60,563 (2022 - €12,473).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €285,976 (2022 - €249,515) and liabilities of €182,934 (2022 - €207,036). The net assets of the company have increased by €60,563.

### **Directors and Secretary**

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Fintan Lyons Michael Moloney Andrea Ongaro (Appointed 14 August 2023)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Michael Moloney.

### **Future Developments**

The company plans to continue its present activities and current trading levels. Employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business.

### **Auditors**

The auditors, Whiteside Cullinan, (Registered Auditor) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 380 of the Companies Act 2014.

### **Taxation Status**

Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited By Guarantee has been granted a sporting body tax exemption under Section 235 Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997.

### **Statement on Relevant Audit Information**

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### **Accounting Records**

To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have established appropriate books to adequately record the transactions of the company. The directors also ensure that the company retains the source documentation for these transactions. The books of account are maintained at the company's office at Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Signed on behalf of the board

Fintan Lyons Director

Michael Moloney Director

2 September 2024

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard, issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Disclosure of Information to Auditor**

Each persons who are directors at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

# to the Members of Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, applying Section 1A of that Standard.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 4 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other Information**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

# to the Members of Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Respective responsibilities

### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 9, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Alan McLean for and on behalf of WHITESIDE CULLINAN Registered Auditor and Chartered Accountants Fleming Court Fleming's Place Dublin 4 D04N4X9

12 August 2024

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee INCOME STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 € as restated
Income		314,359	280,125
Expenditure		(253,796)	(267,652)
Surplus for the financial year		60,563	12,473
Total comprehensive income		60,563	12,473

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	€	€ as restated
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	548	1,089
Current Assets			
Stocks	9	64,898	77,696
Debtors	10	4,084	42,888
Cash and cash equivalents		216,446	127,842
		285,428	248,426
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(182,934)	(207,036)
Net Current Assets		102,494	41,390
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		103,042	42,479
Reserves			
Retained surplus		103,042	42,479
Members' Funds		103,042	42,479

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Approved by the board on 9th September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Fintan Lyons February
Director

Michael Moloney Director

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY as at 31 December 2023

as at 31 December 2023	Retained surplus	Total
	€	€
At 1 January 2022	30,006	30,006
Surplus for the financial year	12,473	12,473
At 31 December 2022	42,479	42,479
Surplus for the financial year	60,563	60,563
At 31 December 2023	103,042	103,042

## Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	€	€ as restated
Cash flows from operating activities			as restateu
Surplus for the financial year Adjustments for:		60,563	12,473
Depreciation		541	1,364
		61,104	13,837
Movements in working capital:		•	,
Movement in stocks		12,798	(77,696)
Movement in debtors		38,804	71,736
Movement in creditors		(24,102)	77,037
Cash generated from operations		88,604	84,914
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		88,604	84,914
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		127,842	42,928
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	11	216,446	127,842

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 1. General Information

Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Ireland.

### Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

### Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A (Small Entities) and the Companies Act 2014.

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A, issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Companies Act 2014 and Section 1A of FRS 102.

### Income

The total income of the company arises from Olympic handball activities.

### Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment

20% Straight line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

### Stocks

Stocks of equipment held for distribution to member organisations are valued at the cost of acquisition. Cost comprises expenditure incurred in bringing stocks to their present location and condition. Full provision is made for obsolete and slow moving items.

### Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

### Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

### Taxation

Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited By Guarantee has been granted a sporting body tax exemption under Section 235 Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997.

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 3. Departure from Companies Act 2014 Presentation

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

### 4. Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

5.	Operating surplus	2023	2022
		€	€
	Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Depreciation of tangible assets	541	1,364
	Surplus on foreign currencies	(344)	-

### 6. Employees

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management and administration	3	2

### 7. Prior period adjustment arising from restatement of Grant Income and associated costs

The financial statements for 2022 have been restated to amend the accounting treatment for sports equipment purchased under the Sport Ireland Targeted Equipment (SITE) Grant program. The Total Grant funding received of €130,350, and the associated equipment costs, were originally fully recognised in the 2022 Financial Statements.

The restatement arises as the sports equipment will be distributed to member organisations over an extended time period, and the directors believe it is prudent to reflect the value of the equipment not distributed at the financial year end as stock, and to defer the recognition of the associated grant income until the sports equipment has been distributed in line with the grant terms. At 31 December 2022, the value of the stock of sports equipment on hand was €77,696, of which €12,798 worth was distributed in 2023.

As a result of this restatement, the recognised Income for the year ended 31 December 2022 has reduced from €357,821 to €280,125, and the Expenditure for that year has been reduced from €345,348 to €267,652. The restatement has no effect on the financial results for the current or prior period, and only effects which accounting periods the income and related costs are recognised.

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 8. Tangible assets

<b>.</b>			Fixtures, fittings and equipment €
	Cost At 1 January 2023		4,278
	At 31 December 2023		4,278
	<b>Depreciation</b> At 1 January 2023 Charge for the financial year		3,189 541
	At 31 December 2023		3,730
	Net book value At 31 December 2023		548
	At 31 December 2022		1,089
9.	Stocks	2023 €	2022 €
	Stock of sports equipment	64,898	77,696
	Stock represents sports equipment held for distribution to member organisations. The did not differ significantly from the figures shown.		
10.	Debtors	2023 €	2022 €
	Trade debtors Prepayments Accrued income	1,586 2,498 -	12,538 30,350
		4,084	42,888
11.	Cash and cash equivalents	2023 €	2022 €
	Cash and bank balances	216,446	127,842
12.	Creditors Amounts falling due within one year	2023 €	2022 €
	Trade creditors Taxation	- 4,155	12,852 8,245
	Other creditors Accruals Deferred Income	7,881 170,898	90 3,403 182,446
		182,934	207,036

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 13. Grant Funding

Name of Grantor Sport Ireland

Name of Grant Sport Ireland Core Grant 2023

Purpose of the Grant To be used to help National Federations with their basic activities.

Amount of Grant awarded in current year €75,000

Grant deferred from prior year €0

Expenditure in the financial year €75,000

Received in financial year €75,000

Name of Grantor Sport Ireland

Name of Grant Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Volunteer Support Grant

Purpose of the Grant To be used for volunteer costs.

Amount of Grant awarded in current year €13,500

Grant deferred from prior year €0

Expenditure in the financial year €0

Grant deferred at financial year end €13,500

Name of Grantor Sport Ireland

Name of Grant Sport Ireland additional Covid Investment Grant

Purpose of the Grant To be used to restart handball in clubs, schools and local sports

partnerships.

Amount of Grant awarded in current year €0

Grant deferred from prior year €85,000

Expenditure in the financial year €85,000

Grant deferred at financial year end €0

Name of Grantor Sport Ireland

Name of Grant Women In Sport Grant

Purpose of the Grant To be used for the promotion, growth and development of

Women in all sport areas e.g coaching, playing and

administration.

Amount of Grant awarded in current year €15,000

Grant deferred from prior year €0

Expenditure in financial year €15,000

Grant deferred at financial year end €0

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Name of Grantor Sport Ireland

Name of Grant Sport Ireland Targeted Equipment (SITE) Grant

Purpose of the Grant To be used to purchase handball equipment for distribution to

member organisations.

Total funding awarded €130,350

Received in current year €30,350

Deferred grant carried forward €77,696

Grant recognised in current year €12,798

Grant deferred at financial year end €64,898

Name of Grantor Sport Ireland

Name of Grant Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Youth Leadership Grant

Purpose of the Grant To be used to develop youth leadership.

Amount of Grant awarded in current year €0

Grant deferred from prior year €18,750

Expenditure in financial year €18,750

Grant deferred at financial year end €0

Name of Grantor Sport Ireland

Name of Grant Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Community and Disability Grant

Purpose of the Grant To be used to deliver disability specific activities.

Amount of Grant awarded in current year €25,000

Grant deferred from prior year €1,000

Expenditure in financial year €1,000

Grant deferred at financial year end €25,000

Name of Grantor Sports Ireland

Name of Grant Covid Support Grant

Purpose of the Grant To be used to develop diversity.

Amount of Grant awarded in current year €67,500

Grant deferred from prior year €0

Expenditure in financial year €0

Grant deferred at financial year end €67,500

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 14. Status

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members or within one year thereafter for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves such amount as may be required, not exceeding  $\in 2$ .

### 15. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 9 September 2024.

### IRISH OLYMPIC HANDBALL ASSOCIATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

### RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### NOT COVERED BY THE AUDITORS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# Irish Olympic Handball Association Company Limited by Guarantee SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT**for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023		
	2023	2022
	€	€
Income		
Memberships	22,573	21,579
Equipment sales	5,879	1,919
Coaching courses	600	2,031
Grants - Sport Ireland - Special project	-	15,000
Grants - Sport Ireland	75,000	60,000
Sport Ireland - Dormant Accounts Fund	19,750	-
Rank Foundation Income	33,337	23,028
Sport Ireland Targeted Equipment (SITE) Funding	12,798	52,654
Grants - Sport Ireland - Covid Investment Grant	85,000	40,000
Grants - Sport Ireland - Women in Sport	15,000	50,350
Grants - Sport reland - Women in Sport	13,000	3,410
	44.400	
Other income	44,422	10,154
	314,359	280,125
Even am dittura		
Expenditure Wages and salaries	115,741	80,430
3	•	,
Social welfare costs	9,205	8,673
Staff defined contribution pension costs	758	
Rent payable	11,141	11,530
Insurance	13,632	4,194
Computer bureau costs	781	12,045
Repairs and maintenance	2,122	-
Printing, postage and stationery	1,444	1,167
Telephone	78	46
Schools	-	250
Nations Mens Championship	-	1,600
Travel	21,553	680
Legal and professional	21,000	492
Consultancy fees	8,590	1,235
•	•	
Accountancy	7,573	7,103
Coaching Courses	8,193	16,447
Bank charges	1,397	1,245
Profit/loss on exchange	(344)	-
General expenses	8,988	8,136
Sports equipment costs	12,798	54,332
Promotion and Marketing	26,387	52,952
Subscriptions	3,218	3,731
Depreciation	541	1,364
	253,796	267,652
Net surplus	60,563	12,473



Company Name: Olympic Handball Ireland

Company Number: 152594

Sport HQ, Sport Ireland National Sports Campus, Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 DY62

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