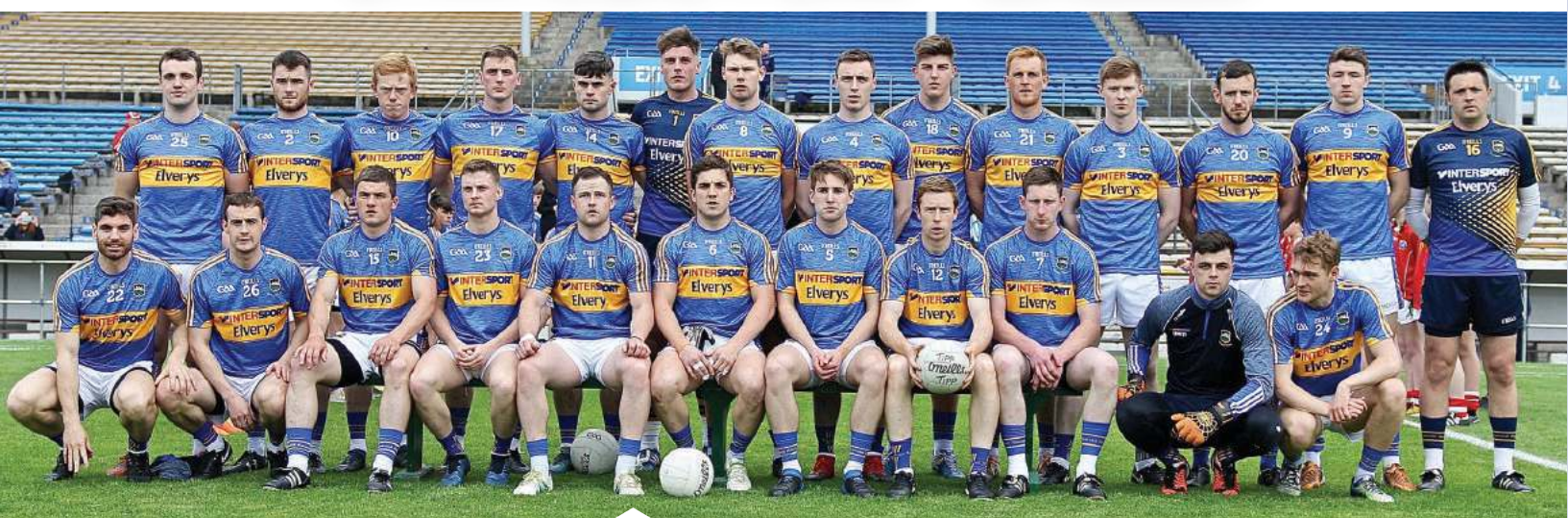


TIPPERARY FOOTBALL STRATEGIC PLAN - 2018/2020



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TIPPERARY FOOTBALL
STRATEGIC PLAN

2018/2020

Tipperary Football Strategic Plan 2018/2020

Tipperary Football

Strategic Development Plan 2018/20

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County Board Chairman's Address

Réamfhocal

As Chairman of Tipperary GAA, I am delighted to introduce the Football Strategic Plan, 2018-2020.

To be successful in any walk of life, you need to make plans. When you get a group of dedicated people together, sharing views and opinions, you can achieve great things. This document is the result of many nights of hard work by many people and I wish to commend the County Football Committee for their work and dedication in this regard and all who have contributed in any way in the production of this plan. The great profile football has achieved in recent times can only be further enhanced by it.

Ar aghaidh le Thiobrad Árann

Seán Ó Dubhán

Cathaoirleach

Coiste an Chontae

Football Committee Chairman's Address

The Strategic Plan for Football in Tipperary covering 2018-2020 is set out under six headings. The football committee decided that looking at these six areas and developing a strategy to address the issues would best serve the development of football in Tipperary in the years covered by the plan.

A great deal of thought and discussion has gone into the development of this plan. I am sure that some of the recommendations will not find universal approval but should at least start a discussion which I hope will result in positive action.

There are over fifty separate actions, with timescales and responsibility for their implementation laid out in the plan. It is clear that the plan can only be implemented with the agreement, cooperation and assistance of

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everyone involved in the promotion of Gaelic games in our county. I am confident that this will be forthcoming.

The degree to which our plan is successfully implemented over the coming years will have a huge bearing on the development and success of football in the county. This plan is the first step on a road that is now clearly mapped out into the future.

LET THE WORK BEGIN.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who worked to develop this plan with a special thank you to the vice chairman of the Football Committee Conor O'Dwyer who has been the driving force behind this plan from the moment it was first discussed.

Ar agaidh le Thiobrad Arann.

Barry O'Brien

Chairman Tipperary Football Committee.

A Brief History of Gaelic Football in Tipperary

Tipperary has a long and storied history in the annals of the GAA and even long before its foundation in Hayes' Hotel Thurles, Gaelic games played an active role in the psyche of the Premier people. According to the website www.premierview.ie "a man by the name of Wakefield travelled through Ireland in the early 19th century, and wrote an account of his travels, which were published in 1812. Travelling through Tipperary he noted "that children as soon as they are able to follow each other, run about in bands of a dozen or more with balls and hurleys". He was a shrewd observer as we may deduce from his final remark on Tipperary ; "the men are strong limbed and seem to be more active than those in Cork".

Giving the prominent place Gaelic games holds in the hearts of Tipperary people it was fitting that Michael Cusack chose Hayes' Hotel, Thurles to found the organisation that would, in time, become the largest amateur sporting body in the world. While many associate hurling with Tipperary, Gaelic football holds a special place in the hearts of many and Tipperary are currently in joint ninth position, alongside Kildare, on the list of All Ireland senior titles won with four wins to their name.

1889 All-Ireland Final

In 1889 Gill Kavanagh led Tipperary, represented by Bohercrowe, to the All-Ireland title when they overcame the challenge of Laois side Maryborough, 3-6 to 0-0, played in front of 1,500 spectators in Inchicore. Earlier that same year Bohercrowe, defeated Carrick in the Tipperary senior football final, 2-7 to 0-0, and they later beat Cork in the Munster final 1-2 to 0-3.

1895 All-Ireland Final

In the ninth staging of the All-Ireland senior football championship Tipperary, represented by Arravale Rovers, won their second crown in the 1895 competition when they were the victors over Meath representatives, Pierce O' Mahoney's. Played in 1896, this was a historic final for a number of reasons. It was the first year that the hurling and football finals were held in Croke Park, then called Jones Road, with Tipperary recording a unique double with the hurlers also capturing All-Ireland glory accounting for aged old rivals Kilkenny, 6-8 to 0-1. Also, it was the final time that a goal was worth five points with its value reduced to three for the 1896 campaign, a rule that still stands to this very day.

Tipperary, won the game in controversial circumstances. Willie Ryan, scorer of all of Tipperary's points, was by all accounts the best player on display with Canon Philip Fogarty in the Tipperary GAA Story describing how he kicked the ball from midfield, followed it into the forward area, caught it again and pointed the equalizing

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score. With time just up, Tipperary won a free and Ryan took on the responsibility and sent the Premier into the lead, a lead they would not surrender. However, the following day The Dublin Press published a letter from the referee, J.J. Kenny, in which he confessed “that one of the Tipperary scores was illegal, because it was secured from inside the twenty-one yards mark, and that therefore the match should have been a draw”. The Central Council of the GAA met soon afterwards and decided that the final score would stand, with Meath sportingly not seeking a replay. Instead, another match was arranged between the sides with a new set of medals on offer for the victors. This time the game ended on 0-5 apiece and a third game was required to separate these great teams. On the final occasion, Arravale Rovers prevailed 2-13 to 1-4.

1900 All-Ireland Final

At the turn of the century Tipperary once again showed their footballing craft by capturing their third All-Ireland title in 1900. This was a championship that took two years to complete with the first round of the Munster championship being played on 4th November 1901 and the final went ahead on 26 October 1902. Captained by Jack Tobin, the Premier opened their Munster championship campaign with a win over Cork, then Limerick in the Munster semi-final and they recorded a comfortable eleven point win over the Kingdom, 1-13 to 1-2, in the provincial final. Kilkenny, a county not noted for its footballing prominence captured the Leinster championship and actually defeated Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final, 1-6 to 0-7 but Tipperary were awarded the match after an objection and went on to defeat Galway 2-17 to 0-1 in the “home” final played in Terenure. In the actual final they easily accounted for the exiles beating London 3-7 to 0-2.

Bloody Sunday

The 21st November 1920 saw one of the darkest days in not only the history of the GAA but in the history of our nation as members of the Crown Forces invaded Croke Park and shot and killed eleven innocent civilians, injuring at least sixty, three more of which died later from their wounds. At the time the Irish War of Independence was at its deadliest, a war in which Tipperary people played a leading role that eventually led to the establishment of the Irish Free State. On that fateful day, Tipperary and Dublin squared off in a challenge match in Croke Park to raise funds for a member of the Second Battalion who had been injured in a fight while acting as a steward at Croke Park. Earlier that morning Michael Collins’ Squad assassinated fourteen British spies across Dublin City and anxious for revenge, the British forces decided to attack Croke Park. Approximately 5,000 people gathered in the stadium to watch the two best Gaelic football teams in the country play out what promised to be an entertaining game but after fifteen minutes of play the Auxiliaries and army attacked and in 90 seconds of madness fired 114 rounds of rifle ammunition, 50 rounds of machine gun fire and an unknown amount of revolver rounds. This game left an indelible mark on the psyche of Ireland and Tipperary and while Tipperary did come back to win the delayed 1920 All-Ireland final and Munster finals of 1922 and 1935, football in the county never fully recovered to assert ourselves as one of the powers in the game like we were in the first two decades of the GAA’s history.

It was fitting that the GAA immortalised Michael Hogan with the naming of the Hogan Stand, where traditionally the winning captains receives the trophy on behalf of their gallant team, in his memory. Three Tipperary people lost their lives as a result of the actions of the military that day: Michael Hogan, Daniel Carroll and James Teehan.

A year after this match a re-fixed game was arranged between the same two sides. This match would have mixed emotions for many people. Memories of Bloody Sunday were still fresh in peoples’ minds and almost everything about the day was arranged to mirror that match. Kildare’s Mick Salmon was once again the referee, throw-in was fixed for the same time at 2:45pm and both teams wore crêpe armbands to remember those who had lost their lives. Dan Breen threw in the ball to begin the match and the Freeman’s Journal reported that “the pace and vigour that Tipperary maintained from the very outset was remarkable”. By the time Mick Salmon blew for full-time Tipperary were leading 5-3 to 0-0.

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There's no doubt that the events of Bloody Sunday would have a traumatic effect on Gaelic football in Tipperary. While we did manage to win the 1920 All-Ireland final, played in 1922, and two Munster titles in 1922 and 1935, the prominent position of our teams as being among the best went into sharp decline

1920 All-Ireland

Due to the unfortunate events in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday this championship took two years to complete. Tipperary required three games to overcome the challenge of Clare, 1-7 to 0-1, on 15 August 1920 in Clonmel. The Munster semi-final was played in February 1922 where Tipperary defeated Waterford and they recorded a two-goal win over Kerry in the Munster final. On May 7th we defeated Mayo in the All-Ireland semi-final before accounting for Dublin 1-6 to 1-2 to claim our fourth All-Ireland title in front of 17,000 spectators in Croke Park. Captained by Fethard's Ned O' Shea this would sadly be our last appearance in the All-Ireland senior decider.

1922 and 1935 Munster Championships

Tipperary would go on to claim two more Munster senior football championships in 1922 and again in 1935. The 1920 All-Ireland winning captain Ned O' Shea would once again have the honour of leading the side in 1922 while Dick Power captained the 1935 winning side. Thereafter honours began to dry up for the Premier county. There were the All-Ireland minor titles of 1934 and 2011 to add to the Munster minor wins of 1934, 1935, 1955, 1984, 1995, 2011, and 2012. Two Munster under-21 crowns were added in 2010 and 2015 however for a county the size of Tipperary there should have been a lot more titles added over the decades.

Tipperary's Gaelic Football Roll of Honour

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL: (4) 1889 (Gil Cavanagh), 1895 (Paddy Finn), 1900 (John Tobin), 1920 (Ned O'Shea)

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR B FOOTBALL: (1) 1995 (Philly Ryan)

TOMMY MURPHY CUP SENIOR FOOTBALL: (1) 2005 (Declan Browne)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 2: (1) 1971 (Michael Babs Keating)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 3:(2) 2009 (Andrew Morrissey) 2017 (Brian Fox)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4:(1) 2014 (Paddy Codd)

MUNSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL

(9) 1888 (Gil Cavanagh), 1889 (Gil Cavanagh), 1895 (Paddy Finn), 1900 (John Tobin), 1902 (Bob Quane), 1918 Ned O'Shea), 1920 (Ned O'Shea), 1922 (Ned O'Shea), 1935 (Dick Power)

MCGRATH CUP:(3) 1989 (Brian Burke), 1993 (Sean Collum), 2003 (Philly Ryan)

MUNSTER FOOTBALL LEAGUE:(2) 1929-30, 1934-35 (Dick Power)

ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL:(2) 1934 (Andy Greensmith), 2011 (Liam McGrath)

MUNSTER UNDER 21 FOOTBALL:(2) 2010 (Ciaran McDonald), 2015 (Colin O'Riordan)

MUNSTER MINOR FOOTBALL: (7) 1934 (Andy Greensmith), 1935 (Willie Power), 1955 (Liam Boland), 1984 (Frank Howlin), 1995 (Mark O'Shea), 2011 (Liam McGrath), 2012 (Dylan Fitzell)

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL:(3) 1912, 1923 (Ned Cummins), 1998 (Kevin Coonan)

MUNSTER JUNIOR FOOTBALL:

(7) 1910 (Tom Byrne), 1912, 1923 (Ned Cummins), 1935 (Maurice Savage), 1937, 1952, 1998 (Kevin Coonan)

ALL STARS:(3) 1998 & 2003 (Declan Browne) 2016 (Michael Quinlivan)

MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP:(1) Clonmel Commercials 2015 (Kevin Harney)

MUNSTER UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP:(4) 2010 (Dara Butler), 2011 (Dylan Fitzell), 2012 (Colin O'Riordan), 2014 (Emmett Moloney)

MUNSTER ALL STAR TEAMS (2004 – 2006): (2) Declan Browne (2004 & 2006)

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Introduction & Methodology

The last decade has been one of great on field success for Gaelic Football in the premier county. The achievements of our under-18's, under-21's and seniors during this period reflects well on all those who have worked tirelessly on the promotion of football in the county over many years. The profile of the county senior team is arguably at an all-time high, and despite frustrations with recent championship losses, there is justifiable optimism that the next few years can bring additional on-field progress.

However, in many ways the performances of the senior team masks many underlying issues. Are enough quality players being brought through the system to ensure continuing momentum at senior inter-county level? Are the disappointing results over the last three years at county underage level, merely a blip or sign of things to come? How do we overcome the challenges faced by dual players? Can we reverse the trend that has seen a decline in the number of clubs playing football at adult level in traditional hurling strongholds? Can we design better structures for juvenile and adult competitions and can we do more to assist schools in promoting football and assist with coach development? These are some of the many questions and challenges we face.

At a meeting of the of the Tipperary Football Committee in February of this year, the idea of setting out in writing a plan of action to meet these challenges was discussed. It was agreed that the board would develop a three year plan and in doing so seek out the thoughts of all interested stakeholders to ensure it represented the views of as wide a group as possible.

On March 29th of this year, over 90 people gathered in the Anner Hotel to kick start the process. Working in groups of 7/8 they discussed ideas and suggestions for improvements under six separate headings:

- Promotion of football to the Tipperary general public
- Promotion and development of football in primary schools
- Promotion and development of football in secondary schools
- Juvenile participation and competition structures
- Adult participation and competition structures
- Development of the game in non-traditional football areas

These six areas then became the basis for the final document. Following on from this meeting, six different working groups were formed to take the written feedback from the night and develop a plan for each section, setting out key initiatives, timelines and milestones under each heading. More than 30 people were involved in this stage of the process with numerous meetings held and much lively debate taking place. These plans were then presented to the football committee for review and amending where necessary to ensure we had a plan that was both ambitious and realistic that would serve as a driver of progress over the next three years This plan was presented for approval at the July meeting of the County Executive.

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Promotion of Football to the Tipperary Public.

The aim is create a better awareness of Gaelic football among the Tipperary public with particular focus on the inter-county teams. By maximising all available media formats it is hoped that this will lead to more support at games and create a bigger public profile for our players.

Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
Maximise opportunities presented by the 100th year anniversary of 'Bloody Sunday'	Have detailed plan in place well in advance of the commemoration and make 2020 a special year in Tipperary Football.	2020	Commemoration Committee in place by Jan 2019.	Football board
Increase the number of children attending Tipperary Inter County Football games	Every club in the county would bring at least on team to a Tipperary Senior league or championship game over the period of the plan. Free tickets given to officers, mentors etc.	Duration of the plan	Initial plan & schedule in place prior to start of the 2019 league	Football board
Increased use of high profile players to promote football	Use the current status of the senior team and it's leading players to raise the profile of the game in the county - video interviews, radio, visit clubs, cul camps, schools etc.	2019	Written proposal in place by end of 2018	Football board PRO
Re-engage with past players	Set up 'Past Players' club with an annual formal or informal social event. Commemorate past achievements - e.g. 1998 All Ireland Junior title etc. Use as a way to get past players involved in development squads, football board etc.	2018	Have past players committee in place by Jan 2019.	Football board
Friends of Tipp Football to develop long term strategic plan	Build on the great work this group has done over the years and develop a written vision and plan for the next 3/5 years	2019	Plan in place by Jan 2018.	Football board
Maximise use of all media formats	Review existing media profile across outlets, where can football get more exposure and how can we maximise use of social media.	2018	Review complete by September 2018	Football board PRO
Develop Link with Ladies Football	Investigate opportunities for joint promotion/ shared initiatives etc	2019	Meet with Ladies Football by March 2019 for initial discussions	Football board

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Promotion and development of football in Primary Schools

Promotion of Gaelic football at primary school level is recognised by all as being of critical importance to the long term development of the game in the county. Great work is done by large numbers of teachers all over Tipperary and this is being supported by both clubs and games development personnel. The purpose of this section of the plan is to identify areas where more can be done to assist primary schools in promoting the game, improve coaching and maximising participation rates in all areas of the county.

Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
Open Semple Stadium to <i>Cumann na mBunscoil</i> football Finals	To put football on an even keel with hurling in this regard. Each year the reward of getting to Semple for hurling is unrivalled compared to football where we do not know where it will be on. Open for 1 or 2 days with possibly DR Morris Park as a back-up or overflow.	In Place for 2018/19 school year.	Agreement from the Stadium committee	County board, football board, Stadium management, <i>Cumann na mBunscoil</i>
Survey of football participation levels in primary school and level of drop off already occurring at this age group	To ascertain our base levels for the three year programme. Using an On-line tool, survey participation levels in schools v Clubs and how this compares to hurling and to other sports available. The survey would be applied again after the three years to measure improvements in participation numbers.	Ready to roll out for Jan 2019	Compilation of questionnaire and piloted in 3 school prior to end of Dec 2018.	All schools, <i>Cumann na mBunscoil</i>
Review & re-fresh links between club(s) and schools in their parish.	Create a two way system where the schools and clubs can maximize contact time for children. There are those who play with school but have no connection to the club. The outcome would be to have club reps attend the schools and make contact with teachers and pupils face to face and provide on-going information on club activities. This would allow for increase in participation for both the school and club. Note: This is being reviewed as part of the county strategic plan.	Dec 2019	Compiling a list of contacts from schools and clubs. Creating link between the parties. Garda vetting a consideration here.	County board, football board, GDA'S, <i>Cumann na mBunscoil</i> , schools, clubs
Create a GDA role that is solely football focussed.	Appoint two additional GDA's - one Football and one Hurling focussed, to work in tandem with existing divisional four GDA's.	2020	Agreement for additional roles in place by Mid 2019 with full job spec in place.	county board, football board, games development.

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Promotion and development of football in Primary Schools cont.

<p>Re-launch & develop the Football Skills Competition.</p>	<p>There is an existing skills competition for schools but participation levels are low. Re-design the existing programme and increase the publicity and promotion of the event. Schools from all over county could compete regardless of size with fun element involved possibly penalty shootout with county goalkeepers and Q&A session with senior players. Event could be sponsored by Football board and coaching clinic with county coach. Consider running on a regional basis.</p>	<p>Academic year 2018/2019</p>	<p>Compilation of skills to be tested and logistics of running the event with support from GDA's and football board</p>	<p>Schools, football board, GDA's</p>
<p>Coaching drill manual with basic drills and adaptations and progressions to be created and rolled out to schools.</p>	<p>Each teacher regardless of background or experience would have access to a set of drills which can be administered with easy set up and done in any area.</p>	<p>Created in 18/19. Carried out in 19/20</p>	<p>Create a group with coaching experience who can create the manual that can be administered throughout all schools.</p>	<p>GDA's, teachers, coaches, experts</p>
<p>CPD (Continual Professional Development) course to coincide with coaching manual.</p>	<p>Teachers will get a week of hands on training during the summer in how to administer the coaching manual. Teachers can already avail of these in rugby. The course could be run centrally in Thurles Be vital to have it accredited so teachers get CPD days for it.</p>	<p>Created in conjunction with coaching manual.</p>	<p>Plan in place by summer 2019</p>	<p>GDA's, teachers, coaches, experts</p>
<p>Ensure that each club/school coach is updated with drills every 3 years on importance of fundamental movements</p>	<p>Creating well rounded athletes and creating an environment of learning skills through fun activities.</p>	<p>within next 3 years</p>	<p>Adaptations that can be added to manual and administered hands on experience in CPD course</p>	<p>GDA's, schools, clubs, coaches</p>

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Promotion and development of football in Secondary Schools

The issues raised re Post Primary Schools, in respect of football promotion & development at the Football Board Plan Workshop, have been discussed with officers & members of the Tipperary Post Primary Schools Games Committee, school management and relevant others. A number of items & suggestions were discussed but the four initiatives listed below were the ones considered to be the most valuable and realistic for the timeframe of this 3 year plan.

Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
1st & 2nd year 15 a Side blitz	Commence late September to allow for three to four week preparation period. The blitz will run in the afternoon and into the evening if necessary. Initially run it with 6 schools in order to make it a success & iron out any teething problems in staging the event. Consider using conditioned games format and having it 'one touch' football only. Expand to other interested schools after year 1.	Commence late September 2018	Plan in place for start of school year to recruit schools.	Post Primary Schools games committee
U15 skills competition	Teams of three players per school, who have been selected following an internal competition run in each participating school. Skills involved will be kicking, fielding, passing & scoring utilising both feet and both hands.	2018/19 school year	Recruit participating schools by December 2018.	Post Primary Schools games committee
Provision of Football coaches to schools	Review existing football coaching input with games development and other interested stakeholders with a view to formulating a plan to assist schools in placing greater emphasis on football development.	December 2018	meeting held of interested parties by end of 2018	Football Board & games development
Create additional football support groups	Mirror the good work done with some schools and roll out this programme in additional secondary schools.	Jan 2019.	Meet with the post primary schools games committee and draft a proposal template and identify 3 additional schools for inclusion.	Football Board & post primary schools games committee

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Juvenile Participation and competitions

As with all sports, ensuring that the game thrives at underage level is of paramount importance for the future development of football in Tipperary. There is a lot of good work being done, by a lot of people with a genuine interest in seeing Tipperary football prosper, but despite this, the challenges are many. Increasing competition from other codes, increased urbanisation and declining numbers in some clubs are but a few examples. All involved with the promotion of Gaelic football in Tipperary must re-double their efforts at all levels, and having the proper structures in place at juvenile level is a critical part of this.

Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
Juvenile Competitions move to U11,13,15,17	National alignment with National move to for intercountyU17.	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	Juvenile/ Adult Boards - Clubs
Competitions for U14,16 at end of season.	Additional football games at the end of season as with the early season games some players might only get 3/4 games and this will increase game-time but also give football a longer season - Run August /Sept - Club based - Option of 11 aside	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	Juvenile /adult Boards -Clubs
One CCC for all Juvenile Fixtures in the County	Alignment of all age groups and timings of divisional competitions (including day of week etc.) across the 4 divisions in the County. The current system whereby competitions are played on different days in different divisions causes unnecessary difficulties for football development squads Divisions to execute the schedule outlined at County CCC ie. identify fields, referees, collection at gate etc..	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	Juvenile /adult Boards -Clubs
All Juvenile Competitions run on a league basis	Everyone qualifies for finals based on seeding - maintains interest for all with playing to a finishing position and even spread of games amongst all clubs.	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	Juvenile / Adult Boards. - Clubs
Clubs each bring a Juvenile team to play at half time of their Senior games - U6, 8, 10	Attract minds and Hearts of kids in playing football and get to meet their club seniors	Now in 2018 c'ship	Clubs to Agree	Divisions / Clubs

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Juvenile Participation and competitions contd.				
Facilities - 1 All Weather size pitch in each Division	Lack of all -weather pitch facilities is a major obstacle to increased participation in Gaelic games and provision of same would extend the playing season for both codes.	2020	Locations and Funding	County Board Strategy
All Clubs have a Football Officer	Its recognised that its imperative that football development comes from the ground up and the club remains the most important vehicle in this regard. The football board will seek to appoint a football officer in each club and work with that individual to identify realistic goals, specific to each club over the 3 year duration of this plan.	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	Football Board
Go Games model to be balanced between football and hurling through the summer.	Every second blitz be football 2019 - provide opportunity for lads interested in playing football at Clubs	2019	Ratified at games & coaching committee for 2019 season	Football Board / coaching & games committee
Maintain participation ensuring juveniles do not have to decide on one code at juvenile ages.	Ensure all juveniles remains involved playing football for as long as possible and allows them the option of playing either code at all levels into their adult playing careers.	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	Football Board
Review football development squads annually with football board.	Bring together all management teams in at the end of the season to review operation of the squads, exchange learnings and seek out ways for shared improvements . Outputs from this review to be shared with games development via the county coaching and games committee.	2018 season	1st review completed in October 2018 .	Football Board
Annual beginning of season workshop with development squad management teams.	Share ideas around coaching session design, game plan, tactics. Include representatives from county u17, u20 and senior management teams to maximise opportunities for sharing of best practice and coaching skills development.	Jan 2019	Date booked within two weeks of appt. of management teams and meeting held before the season start.	Football Board

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Juvenile Participation and competitions contd.				
Introduce U19 if County go for U17 and U21	Competition in July / August - with or without county players - games played at 11 and 13 aside optional	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	Football Board / Clubs
Every Club to have min 2 Coaches up to Level 2 coaching Football to boys and Girls	To raise the Football standards - work with club football officers and games development.	2020	Meet with games development by end of 2018 to review current situation and develop agreed plan for rollout.	Football Board
Additional competition for teams knocked out early in the championship.	County divided into groups (number of groups to be decided)from teams knocked out early in competitions. Opportunity to provide additional games but also chance to play teams outside of own division. Pilot it with U16 - 11 or 13 aside	2019	Agreement with county juvenile board for 2019 season	Football & divisional boards
Appoint a sub-group of the football board with a singular focus on games development at juvenile level.	Recognising the fact that juvenile development is critical to all future successes, appoint a sub- committee of the football board with a mandate to work with all relevant stakeholders to drive progress across all sections of juvenile football in the county .	2019	In place for beginning of 2019	Football Board

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Adult Football Participation & Competitions

The aim is to provide a comprehensive programme of games for all clubs and players at regular intervals throughout the playing season. This schedule also needs to take account of the varying needs of all clubs and encourages clubs from non-traditional football areas to enter teams into all adult competitions.

Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
County Senior Football Structure	To remain the same format until 2019. In 2020 format to change to 2 groups of 8 teams. The 16 teams to be graded from the 2019 results. The top 8 teams to play for the County Senior title. The second 8 teams to play for a new cup. Promotion and relegation for 2 teams each year between the 2 groups. Promotion and relegation from second 8 teams to intermediate 2 down, 2 up to also apply. To be run on an all-County basis, with no divisional link. Same format to be used for groups and grading as the current format.	2020	Motion to County Convention 2019	Football Board
County Intermediate Football Structure	To remain the same format until 2019. Use the results from 2019 to grade teams to be run same as Senior on an all-County basis with no divisional link. Currently 15 teams. To be run with 3 groups of 4 and 1 group of 3 in first year. No relegation first year to bring teams to 16 going forward (1 team promoted from Junior) and run with 4 groups of 4. Promotion and relegation of 2 teams each year, 2 up from Junior and 2 down. South 7 teams, North 1 team, Mid 3 teams, West 4 teams	2020	Motion to County Convention 2019	Football Board
County Junior A Football Structure	Remain the same format until 2019. Use results from 2019 to grade teams. (Co.CCC) Junior to be run on an all-county basis, no divisional link. Total of 29 teams, South 8, North 8, Mid 6, West 7. 6 groups 5 x 5 with 1 x 4. Try to create a set time frame for both codes and if possible a designated night. This is an important grade to promote football in weaker areas. Junior football is the first football team for 24 clubs. Promotion and relegation 2 up to Intermediated, 2 down to Junior B to apply.	2020	Motion to County Convention 2019	Football Board
County Junior B Football Structure	To remain the same format until 2019. Use the results from 2019 to grade teams. (Co.CCC) Junior B to be run on an all-county basis, with no divisional link. Total 18 teams, South 7, North 0, Mid 4, West 7.	2020	Motion to County Convention 2019	Football Board

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Adult Football Participation & Competitions contd.				
County U20/21 Football Championship	Leave the same format as is currently in place.			
County U17/18 Football Championship	To remain the same format as is currently in place to run the championship. The one change is to start and finish one code to conclusion, before the other code starts.	2019		Football Board
County Adult Football League	Re name it to a Club player's competition. Play without county players for all games. Even exclude county players from it to give the noncounty players more games. Groups of 6 or groups of 5 depending on numbers. Matches to be played on a given night. Friday night the preferred night. Run from May to August in both codes on alternative weekends. Give some kind of reward to winners that is worth winning. Better promotion of the league with leagues tables on local papers, social media etc.	2019	Motion to County Convention 2018	Football Board
Divisional Adult Football Competitions	Each division would continue to organise their own competitions as is currently the case. Breaking the link with the County competition at all adult grades would allow each division the freedom to organise games at the time of year that best suits the needs of their own clubs. The Football Board to seek a meeting with each division to review current competition structures to see how best to maximise participation rates,	2020	Reviews complete with divisions by mid-2019.	Football Board
One CCC for all Adult Fixtures in the County	Divisions to execute the schedule outlined at County CCC to enable smoother running of competitions and greater consistency across all four divisions.	2019	Ratified at County Board for 2019 season	County Board
Amalgamations of non-senior clubs	In order to give all players in the county a chance to play football at the highest level, create divisional teams from an amalgamation of non-senior clubs to play at senior competition level. This may involve more than one such amalgamation in a division.	2019	Football board to bring forward proposals to 2018 AGM.	Football Board

Gaelic Football promotion in non-traditional football areas

In arriving at the following recommendations, the subcommittee tried to address this topic in several ways across various ages and GAA units, but with the aim of identifying proposals which were attainable and cost effective. It was agreed that the basis of the recommendations would be that change must begin with, and be driven by, our offering to young people. If young people are exposed to the game sufficiently, and given the correct supports in terms of games provision and coaching, they will play the game. It is our responsibility to give every player in Tipperary, adult and child, the opportunity to enjoy and play Gaelic Football to the best possible standard, and while these recommendations in themselves will not reach that goal, they will at least provide a solid platform to build from.

Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
The Creation of Regional Skills Development Workshops under the auspices of Games Development.	Skills Development Workshop, to be run by Games Development, using Development Squad and County Underage Coaches, and including a current county senior footballer. These workshops would be hosted in different clubs, on a rotating basis, for a period of at least 6 weeks at an agreed time of the year, potentially Autumn/early Winter. All interested players from the ages of 10 to 13 from the surrounding areas and clubs would be welcomed to these workshops, as well as club coaches who would be interested in observing. The aims of these workshops would be to a) Expose the children to high quality coaching so that they can be given a solid grounding in the basic skills, and more advanced skills, of the game; b) Build up a sense of excitement and occasion around football and the fact that people from several clubs are attending, and that the coaching is being delivered by County personnel; c) Help interested coaches pick up some technical information and techniques to coach skills such as hand pass, foot pass, catching, scoring, tackling etc.	In Place for 2019	Detailed plan and schedule in place by March 2019.	Football Board & Games development
Increased amount of localised Primary School Football 'blitzes'	It is recommended that primary schools be targeted more for football, using the existing mechanism of the GDAs. One way of building excitement and participation is to host more, at least 4, regional blitzes for those primary schools in non-traditional areas. It is recommended that an appropriate time of the year is identified, and the schools are visited briefly by the GDA and a senior player to introduce the concept, and to encourage the children to participate. It is strongly believed that such an approach would raise the appetite and participation levels, and thus give football an excellent entry point into the schools.	2 blitzes to take place in 1st 6 months of 2019.	Agreement reached with Games development and provisional plan in place by Jan 2019.	Football Board & Games development

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Gaelic Football promotion in non-traditional football areas contd.				
Present National School Football mini games during Tipperary League Games	Home Allianz National Football League games to feature 2 or 3 mini games, across the pitch, for national school children. It is important to note that this proposal is not the same as the current games which are played during championship matches, as these games will not feature 'representative' teams, but will instead be complete teams from specific schools from non-traditional areas.	Spring 2019	Discussion held with all stakeholders by Dec 2018.	Football Board
Establish a 50:50 focus between hurling and football in Cúl Camps	Whilst recognising that the Cul Camps are designed and structured to have an equal emphasis on both games, the reality is that in many cases this is not happening. Very often this reality is linked to the preference of the host club. In these instances the local GDA, working with the club football officer and or juvenile committee would seek to re-dress this imbalance for the 2019 season. As is the case with introducing and encouraging Gaelic Football in the schools, it is felt that giving a public show of support in the Cúl Camps would further emphasise the point that the GAA in Tipperary is fully committed to giving children the opportunity to learn and enjoy Gaelic Football as well as Hurling.	Summer 2019	Agreement in place prior to 2019 Cul Camp planning	Football Board & Games development
All Clubs to appoint a Football Officer	Even in non-traditional areas, there are people in every club who have an interest in, and love of, Gaelic Football. In particular, our players have shown that given the opportunity they will play and enjoy football, even as a complementary game to hurling in those clubs where hurling is, and will remain, the primary game played. It is proposed that the Tipperary County Board mandate that all clubs appoint a Football Officer, with a remit to ensure that the responsibility to provide that opportunity is met in every club. This Officer role will liaise with the GDAs to help implement some of the initiatives proposed in this document, and will also help ensure that their club maximises opportunities for it's players to enjoy and participate in Gaelic football.	In place for 2019	Agree on aims, scope and duties of this role and what support/training etc. will need to be provided - complete by Dec 2018.	Football Board
All clubs encouraged and facilitated to enter a football team in all age grades including Adult football competitions.	Based on the belief that club players are interested in playing Gaelic Football, even as the secondary code in some clubs, and based on the stated aim of providing all players the opportunity to participate in Gaelic Football, it is recommended that the County Board look at ways to incentivise clubs (grant allocations etc.) to enter teams at all age grades including adult. The fee structure has changed in recent years, with the cost of entering teams now linked to claims experience and not solely dependent on the number of teams entered.	2019	Survey all clubs by Dec 2018 - understand reasons why they don't enter teams and provide insight into likely solutions.	Football Board

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Gaelic Football promotion in non-traditional football areas contd.

<p>Institute a Summer Sevens tournament.</p>	<p>There are large parts of the summer where, due to County commitments, important club competitions are put on hold thereby causing frustration for those players not on our county panels. It is felt that this issue is, in fact, a massive opportunity in Non-Traditional areas to put an annual competition into the calendar which is aimed at non-county players who wish to play football. This competition would be called the 'Summer Sevens' and would take the form of similar Sevens tournaments around the country, whereby clubs from non-traditional areas would be invited to attend and participate in a blitz format. Depending on numbers, this could be run over a couple of weekends, with a 'finals' day, or it could be all contained in a single day. In either case, this tournament would be promoted by the Football Board, and a worthwhile prize should be at stake (Club Gear, etc.). It is proposed that the final day would involve a post tournament get together for people to interact in an informal setting. Depending on the date chosen, it may be possible to watch a championship game broadcast, such as a Super 8s game.</p>	<p>Summer 2019</p>	<p>Draft proposal presented to divisional and county boards by March 2019.</p>	<p>County Board / Football board</p>
<p>Aspire to have a representative from North Tipperary is involved in the backroom team of every inter county squad from U-14 to Senior.</p>	<p>While it is accepted that currently North Tipperary is represented on most teams in the academies and at competitive inter county level, it is proposed that Tipperary County Board formally direct that, where possible, all inter county football squads have at least 1 member of the backroom team from North Tipperary. The benefits of this are two-fold. 1 – A representative from the North division will be closer to the players in that division and should be in a position to contact or recommend individual players who may be hidden from sight at a lower grade of club activity. 2 – Having a representative from the North division immediately gives a sense of prestige to other people in that division, and to players who will feel they have a voice on the management team.</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Agreement reached with county board and other relevant stakeholders by Dec 2018.</p>	<p>Football Board</p>

Implementation and Review Mechanisms

This plan is a living document. It will be reviewed, assessed and adapted to ensure it facilitates Tipperary Football in reaching its potential over the next three years. Other ideas and suggestions may emerge and be included as this plan develops. The Football Committee has established a Plan Implementation Sub Committee who will meet on a quarterly basis to assess the progress of the plan against its stated objectives. A progress report will be presented annually to the Football Board and submitted in turn to the County Board for review.

Acknowledgements

In total, over 120 people have had an input into building this plan and helping to chart a path for the development of football in the Premier county. The Tipperary Football board would like to thank all involved for their input to date and acknowledge the support of both the Tipperary County Board and the Friends of Tipperary Football in this project. We would also like to thank all those who have supported football in Tipperary in any way since the birth of the GAA and hope we can count on that support continuing as we attempt to build on the strong tradition of football in this county.

