



# 2016 USGAA Finals in Seattle

Labor Day Weekend - presented by the Seattle Gaels and the Irish Heritage Club

Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>



For up-to-date information, visit us at:

[www.seattle2016.com](http://www.seattle2016.com)

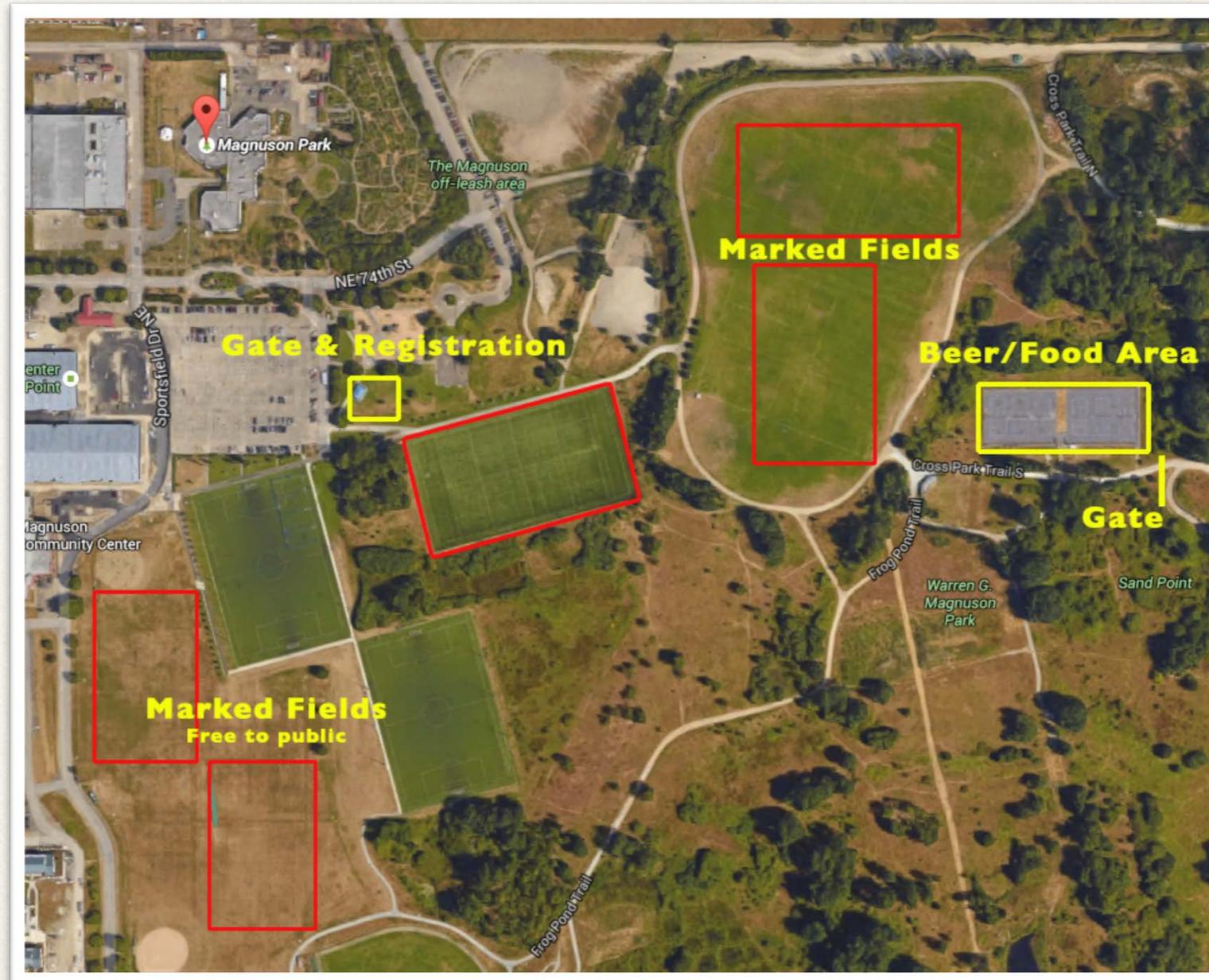


# Event Committee

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- ❖ **Ed Murray** - Mayor of Seattle (Honorary Co-Chair)
- ❖ **Kathleen O'Toole** - Seattle Chief of Police (Honorary Co-Chair)
- ❖ Brian White - Chair of Seattle Gaels
- ❖ John Keane - Honorary Consul of Ireland
- ❖ Noreen McCormack - President of Irish Network Seattle
- ❖ Other members include program heads and business leaders from various Irish cultural organizations and local industries – including Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon and Russell Investments

# Magnuson Park – Preliminary Layout





# Transportation and Parking

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- ❖ Approximately 2,000 athletes and team personnel will be staying at hotels in downtown Bellevue
- ❖ To reduce traffic and parking issues, the Event Committee will provide shuttle busses that will be used to transport the teams to and from the hotels to Magnuson Park
- ❖ The Event Committee is working with park staff to also secure offsite parking north of the field areas and provide free shuttle transport for spectators



# Community Involvement

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- ❖ The Event Committee has committed to making approximately half of the games free and open to the public
- ❖ We will be providing free passes to local schools as part of our Youth Outreach program
- ❖ We are planning a free exhibition game featuring local high schools who participate in the Seattle Gaels Youth Program, at which the winning team will be presented a trophy given to the program by the President of Ireland
- ❖ There will be cultural exhibits featuring music, history and artwork that are free and open to the public

# NACB 2016

## Finals in Seattle

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- ❖ The 2016 North American Championship is coming to Seattle on Labor Day weekend.
- ❖ One of only two cities outside of Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia to host.
- ❖ Being held at Magnuson Park - in the city, and near great restaurants, pubs, shopping and music.
- ❖ More than 2,000 athletes and an estimated 8,000+ in attendance.
- ❖ Expected to generate more than \$1.2 million in economic activity in the area.
- ❖ Brings the Seattle Gaels and the Seattle area a national platform, increasing visibility locally and abroad.
- ❖ Local and international media coverage.



# Demographics of Participants

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- ❖ Close to a 100 men and women's teams from the US and Canada Participant
- ❖ Age range: 18-49
- ❖ Gender demographics: Apprx. 60% male, 40% female
- ❖ Hosted by the Seattle Gaels and Irish Heritage Club of Seattle
- ❖ Players are of diverse ethnic backgrounds – not just of Irish heritage
- ❖ Participants largely young, urban professionals who enjoy alternative sports
- ❖ Senior, intermediate, and junior grades





# About the Seattle Gaels GAA Club

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- ❖ The Seattle Gaels, a program of the Irish Heritage Club of Seattle, works to promote the Irish Sports of Gaelic Football, Hurling and Camogie to men, women and youth in the Pacific Northwest.
- ❖ Officially founded in 1979, the Gaels evolved from of a tradition of Irish sports in the Northwest that dates back to the 1920s.
- ❖ With several national and regional championships, the Gaels are one of the largest and most respected Gaelic sports clubs in the USA.
- ❖ Pioneered a unique program that introduces Gaelic sports to schools are part of the core physical education curriculum rather than an extracurricular activity. This program is being modeled in other US cities and around the world.
- ❖ More than 3,000 local students have played Gaelic sports in the greater Seattle area as part of this program over the past two years.

# Community and Schools Programs

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- ❖ The Seattle Gaels have pioneered a national program to get Gaelic games into school Physical Education programs.
- ❖ The Lake Washington School District adopted Gaelic Football as part of its district-wide core P.E. curriculum.
- ❖ More than 2,800 students in the Greater Seattle area have now played Gaelic sports.
- ❖ The Seattle Gaels presented at the national SHAPE Conference of Physical Education teachers.
- ❖ Districts across the country are now adopting Gaelic sports.







# About Gaelic Games

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- ❖ The Irish sport of hurling goes back more than 2,000 years, and is considered the fastest field sport in the world.
- ❖ Gaelic Football goes back more than 300 years.
- ❖ Hurling and Gaelic Football are the national sports of Ireland, are all amateur, and attract more than 60,000 people each weekend to Croke Park stadium in Dublin.
- ❖ Elite level players are some of the top athletes in the world - many also go on to play international premiere soccer and rugby.

# About Hurling

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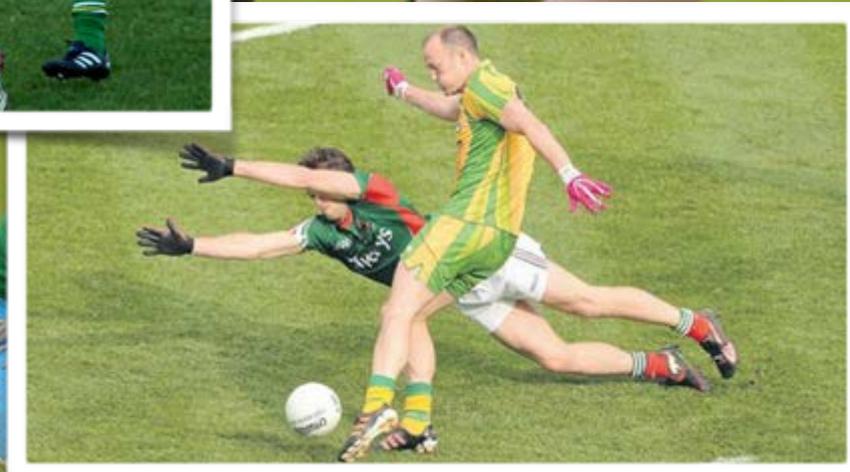
- ❖ Often described as a combination of hockey, lacrosse, rugby and soccer.
- ❖ Played 15 per side.
- ❖ Players use a wooden bat called a hurley.
- ❖ The game is played with a leather ball called a sliotar (pronounced *slitter*) - similar in size and weight to a baseball.
- ❖ Players can catch the ball in their hands, run with it, and strike it with the hurley from the hand or on the ground.
- ❖ Scoring is 3 points for a goal (in the net, past the goal keeper) or 1 point for a ball struck over the bar and between the posts.



# About Gaelic Football

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- ❖ Combines skills of rugby, soccer, basketball and volleyball.
- ❖ Played 15 per side.
- ❖ Uses a ball similar to a soccer ball.
- ❖ Players can catch the ball in their hands, run with it, and kick it from the hand or on the ground.
- ❖ Scoring is 3 points for a goal (in the net, past the goal keeper) or 1 point for a ball struck over the bar and between the posts.



# The Gaelic Field

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- ❖ Both hurling and Gaelic Football are typically played with 15 players per side
- ❖ The field is the same for both, and large - 140 yards long by 90 yards wide.
- ❖ There is a goal on each end - the size and shape of a soccer goal, but with uprights extending on each side, similar to an American football goal post.
- ❖ One point is scored for balls that go over the bar and between the posts.
- ❖ Three points (a goal) are scored for balls that go past the goal keeper, and into the net.

