



A Chathaoirligh,

Go raibh maith agat as ucht an deis seo teacht os bhur gcomhair inniu. Thank you for this opportunity to come before you today.

To give you a background ón Scór, it was originally established by the GAA in 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's traditional pastimes and culture while offering club members the chance to meet up, have fun and represent their club during the winter months while football and hurling had ceased.

There are eight disciplines in Scór that cover all aspects of Irish culture: Céilí Dancing, Solo Singing, Ballad Group, Recitation or Storytelling, Novelty Act, Instrumental Music, Set Dancing and Table Quiz. The competition is divided into two age levels, Scór na nÓg, for young people under 17 and Scór Sinsir, for those over 17. Scór caters for people of all ages and all abilities.

Like the All-Ireland Football and Hurling Championships, clubs taking part in Scór run off competitions among the club's own members initially with the winners going forward to Divisional/District Board stage where deemed necessary. They then go on to the County Final. The winners go on to the Provincial final and finally on to the All-Ireland Final.

It is important to note also that Scór is ran bilingually - i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla – and that participants in the oral competitions are invited to perform in Irish or in English.

Both male and female members have taken part in Scór since its inception in 1969. Although there has been no data formally

collected it would be accurate enough to say that participation is 50/50 between males and females.

In 2023, last year, a total of 378 clubs took part in Scór Sinsear – 355 GAA clubs and 23 LGFA / An Cumann Camógaíochta clubs. In the same year 510 clubs took part in Scór na nÓg – 440 GAA clubs and 70 LGFA and An Cumann Camógaíochta clubs.

Although the 2023 Scór participation figures above consisted mostly of GAA clubs, it is important to note that many of these clubs adopt a one club model in which all Gaelic games come under the one umbrella within the club. These clubs would have been represented by footballers, hurlers, camogie players, rounders players and handball players at Scór within the club regardless of gender. It is important to add also that stand alone GAA clubs would have male and female members represent the clubs too.

Integration between males and females has always been a thing at Scór with equal participation and involvement in administration, promotion etc. from both male and females.

Go raibh maith agaibh.