



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2027

Introduction

The Racquetball Association of Ireland (RAI) is a 32-county organisation that was founded in 1979. Amongst its objectives is to establish, maintain and promote interest and participation in the sport of racquetball.

Mission Statement

The RAI will promote the sport of racquetball for people of all ages, race, genders and skill levels throughout Ireland. We will strive to deliver this role through best governance principles

As the recognised National Governing Body (NGB) of racquetball in Ireland, the RAI is established to make rules and regulations to uphold the principles of good governance.

Vision

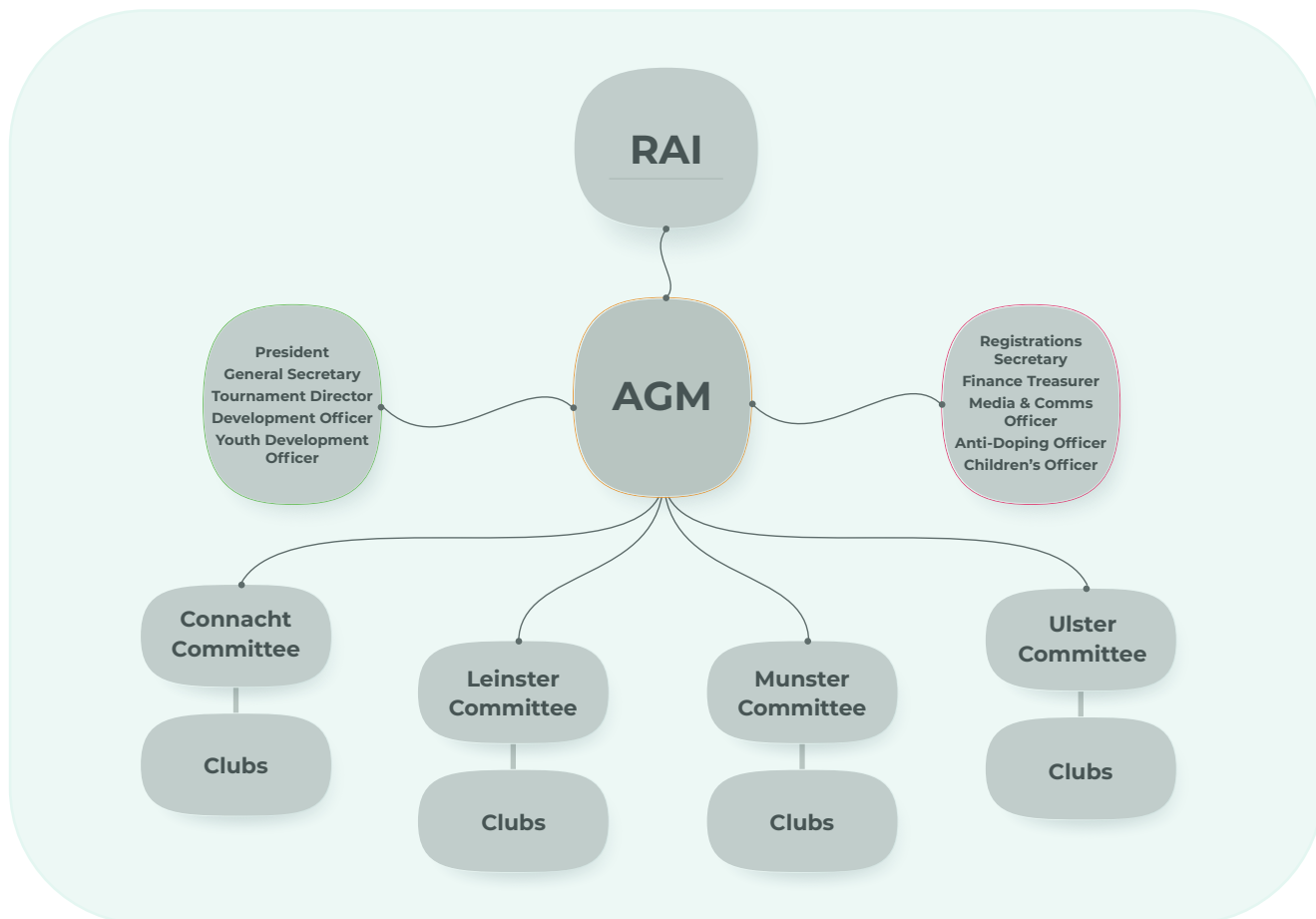
- ▲ Our vision is to enhance the profile of Irish racquetball both nationally and internationally.
- ▲ To have an effective governance structure, successful provincial council branches and a successful club development program.
- ▲ To lead the way in continuing to build a successful coaching structure for both juniors and adults.
- ▲ To prepare our top athletes to compete at the best of their ability at international events.







Racquetball Association of Ireland Organisational Chart



Organisation Pillars

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(A separate, more detailed document to which gives targets, attributes responsibility for each pillar and monitors progress is being finalised)



1. Organisation & Governance

We will

- ▲ Operate our Association in accordance to the best governance procedures and in accordance to Sport Ireland Governance Code.
- ▲ Modernise and update our practises in order to deliver our vision.
- ▲ Recruit and support our volunteers who work tirelessly for the sport.
- ▲ Develop and revive Provincial Councils.
- ▲ Adopt new and existing technology to support our strategic goals.
- ▲ Examine ways to improve racquetball infrastructure in Ireland.

How will we achieve this?

We will do this by

- ▲ Reviewing regularly our constitution, rules & regulations in line with Sport Ireland Policies & Procedures.
- ▲ Looking at similar size NGBs and the good practices they adopt.
- ▲ Ecruiting volunteers and developing a volunteer's strategy which is based on connecting with the community, clubs, provincial councils.
- ▲ Examining ways to introduce new technology.
- ▲ Collaborating with clubs to apply for grants from LSPs to improve facilities and to explore with other sporting and educational organisations the possibility of a centre of excellence for the sport.



2. Promotion & Marketing

We will

- ▲ Promote Irish Racquetball which reflects the vision and values of our Association.
- ▲ Increase the visibility of our sport locally, regionally and nationally.
- ▲ Build awareness and a positive brand image for the sport
- ▲ Develop and maintain inclusive communication platforms which supports our organisation and community.

How will we achieve this

We will do this by

- ▲ Reviewing all aspects of our organisation to find means of improving our marketing and communications strategy.
- ▲ Building awareness and a positive brand image for the sport.
- ▲ Supporting provincial councils and clubs in the work to develop to promote the sport.
- ▲ Maintaining and improving our website and social media platforms to the highest standards.
- ▲ Providing promotional materials, posters, information leaflets to our clubs and the public.



3. Participation, Competition & Club Development

We will

- ▲ Develop a provincial and club structure which will be to the benefit of Irish Racquetball.
- ▲ Focus on gaining new clubs, new members and retaining current clubs and members.
- ▲ Promote Racquetball as a healthy sport which can be both competitive and fun at the same time.
- ▲ Promote the social aspect of the sport in clubs and at tournaments.
- ▲ Promote Racquetball especially for juniors, women and the older age groups.
- ▲ Promoting racquetball in Third Level Colleges.
- ▲ Promote Racquetball as an open and welcoming sport that embraces diversity and inclusivity.
- ▲ Develop a Referee Education Program.
- ▲ Continue to develop meaningful competition structures and formats for players at all levels.
- ▲ Continue to support clubs and encourage new clubs with junior programmes.

How will we achieve this

We will do this by

- ▲ Understanding provincial and club structures and the requirement for more interaction through communications and surveys.
- ▲ Appointing a development officer for each of the four provinces.
- ▲ Interacting with schools in towns and villages where there are racquetball courts and providing support to local clubs to run school programs.
- ▲ Encouraging and supporting clubs to run junior, women and adult programs.
- ▲ Reviving interest in the inter university competitions.
- ▲ Reviewing player pathways so that players gain the best possible experience from competing in tournaments.

4. Coaching Development

We will

- ▲ Establish a Coaching Strategy & Vision.
- ▲ Further our Coach Development and Coach Education programmes.
- ▲ Develop and support a network of coaches who are respected and valued at club, provincial and national level.
- ▲ Develop clear and recognisable player and coaching pathways.
- ▲ Support the Director of Coaching in delivering the association's coaching objectives.
- ▲ Deliver Foundation Level Coaching Courses.
- ▲ Develop and deliver a Level 1 Coaching Course.
- ▲ Recruit new Coach Developers.

How will we achieve this

We will do this by

- ▲ Appointing a Director of Coaching .
- ▲ Creating a Coaching Strategy & Vision with Coach education at the fore.
- ▲ Forming a Coaching Committee comprising of the Director of Coaching, Coach Developers and qualified coaches.
- ▲ Working with Coaching Ireland to improve our Foundation Level Course and develop a Level 1 Coaching Course.
- ▲ Working with Coaching Ireland and Limerick University to educate new Coach Developers.
- ▲ Establishing an annual coaching meeting of all involved in coaching.

5. Finance & Funding

We will

- ▲ Prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Irish regulatory framework adhering to all accounting standards.
- ▲ Comply with the Irish Tax Regulations .
- ▲ Address all auditors queries in a timely manner whilst maintaining proper books of records.
- ▲ Interact and agree with Sport Ireland the spending of all grants received.

How will we achieve this

We will do this by

- ▲ Submitting the accounts to approved auditors annually and presenting accounts for approval at AGM.
- ▲ Receiving a Tax Clearance certificate from revenue.ie each year and produce to Sport Ireland.
- ▲ Liaising with external auditors and provide back up and paperwork.
- ▲ Keeping proper books of records of all receipts and payments in the bank statements.



6. High Level Performance & International

We Will:

- ▲ Develop a High Performance (HP) strategy and direction for both Juniors and Seniors.
- ▲ Continue to support and develop Open and International competitions to allow our elite players to compete at the highest level.
- ▲ Develop and foster HP coaches.
- ▲ Develop Provincial and National squads, both Junior and Senior, to enable them to compete and podium at international events.

How will we achieve this

We will do this by:

- ▲ Appointing a 'Director of Coaching' with a view to implementing both medium- and long-term coaching development and athlete development plans.
- ▲ Identifying talented Junior and Senior players and put in place resources to enable them to meet, train and compete at the highest level.
- ▲ Setting benchmarks and contract players to ensure that elite players meet performance indicators.
- ▲ Reaching out to the International Community to access HP personal and resources to help us on our HP journey.

