

## Hurling: Ireland's Wild and Wonderful National Game.

### Slide 1: Introduction.

Hi everyone! Today, we're diving into the heart and soul of Ireland – hurling! The sport that's not just a game, but a national passion.

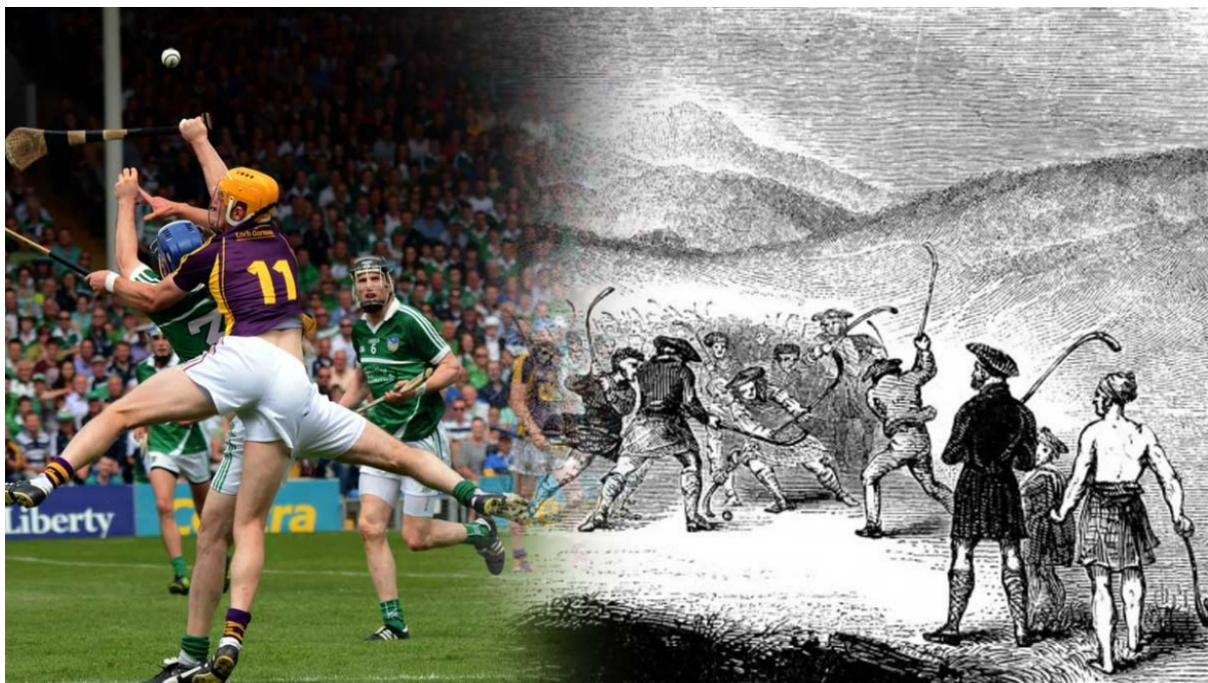


Exhibition image from Sportsfile at the Professional Photographers Association of Ireland - Photographer of the Year Awards 2015. Ray McManus - Finalist in Sports Action 10 August 2014; Seamus Hickey and Richie McCarthy, Limerick, in action against Mark Kelly and TJ Reid, Kilkenny. GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship, Semi-Final, Kilkenny v Limerick, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

## Slide 2: A Dash of History.

The birth of hurling, dating back over 3,000 years!

Manuscripts, such as the "Táin Bó Cúailnge" (Cattle Raid of Cooley) and ancient Irish legend make references to hurling like games of that ancient time. This legend describes the exploit of the Ulster hero Cú Chullainn, (literally Hound of Cullen) who was so named after killing a fierce guard dog by driving a hurling ball down its throat.[1]



### **Slide 3: What Is Hurling?**

Hurling is a stick and ball game, played by teams of 15 on a rectangular grass pitch with H-shaped goals 6–7 meters high. The wooden stick is called a ‘hurley’, or a camán in the Irish language, while the ball is called a ‘sliotar’.

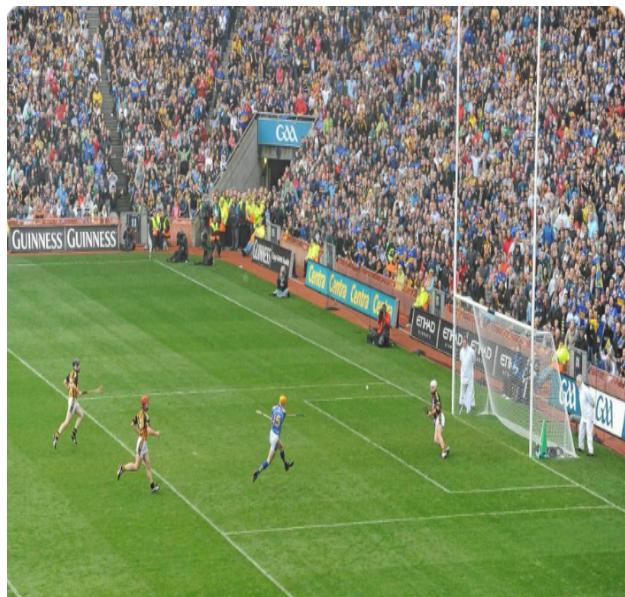
The primary objective is to score by driving the ball through the goals (3 points) or putting the ball over the crossbar and thereby scoring a point.

Up to 1887, the hurling ball was made up of pressed paper or cow’s hair, a little lead, it was covered with leather and was very heavy and dead in wet conditions.

Nowadays a sliotar consists of a cork core covered by two pieces of leather stitched together.

Nowadays, everyone wears helmets, but back in the day, players were like fearless warriors without them. And yes, there have been some sad moments.

There are six largest hurling playing populations in Ireland: Cork (25,600), Tipperary (14,260), Dublin (13,980), Galway (12,520), Kilkenny (10,080) and Limerick (9,980).[2]



#### **Slide 4: Promoting health and team spirit.**

Hurling is considered as an intrinsic part of Irish culture and plays a central role in promoting health and wellbeing, inclusiveness and team spirit. Today, the skills are promoted and transmitted through coaching and games in schools and clubs.

In 2018, it was inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity [3].



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## **Slide 5: The fastest field sport in the world.**

Hurling is widely considered one of the fastest field sports in the world because the sliotar can travel up to 180 km/hr over the course of a game and it is always in play! [4]

The fastest shot recorded to date was hit by TJ Reid of Kilkenny against Limerick in the 2014 GAA All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship semi-final, when a remarkable speed of 181.1 km/hr was measured.[5]



## **Slide 6: Hurling for lads \_ Camogie for ladies.**

The same game has different names depending on gender: Hurling for men and Camogie for women.

The name ‘camogie’ was invented in 1903 and the first competitive camogie match was played between two Dublin Gaelic League branches, Keatings and Cuchulainns in Navan, Co. Meath on 17 July 1904.

The Camogie Association was formed in 1905.

One of the main differences is for the goalkeepers. In hurling the goalies must wear distinctive jerseys from the team, whereas in camogie everyone must dress in the same colour. In Camogie, players can score hand-passed goals which is illegal in Hurling. [6]

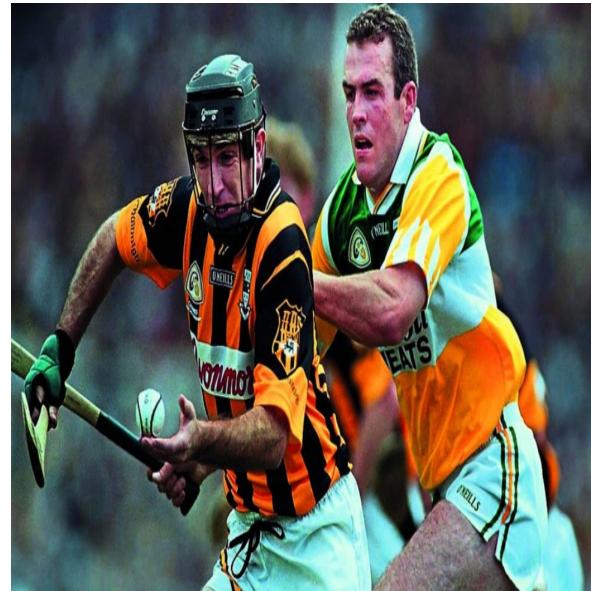


Fig. 4—Camogie match in 1915 between UCD and UCC, played at the O'Neill-Crowley Grounds, Victoria Cross, Cork (courtesy of Mary Moran).

[7] <https://archaeologyireland.ie/2018/03/19/evolution-of-gaelic-games/>

## **Slide 7: Hurling's Superstars.**

Move over Hollywood, we've got our own stars!) Names like Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale, Co.Kilkenny), DJ Carey (Gowran, Co.Kilkenny) and Joe Canning are the Michael Jordans of hurling. They're not just players; they're legends etching their names in the annals of hurling history.



Kilkenny hurling star Henry Shefflin retires - BBC Sport

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DJ Carey is one of the best hurlers of all time, and also a former All Ireland handball champion.

## **Slide 8: Conclusion.**

Hurling not just a game; it's a living, breathing piece of Ireland's history.

## **Slide 9: Questions?**

Any burning questions, or are you ready to don your hurling jersey and hit the field? Let's chat!

References:

[1] GAA

<https://www.gaa.ie/news/hurling-history-and-evolution/>

[2] RTE

<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2022/0322/1287753-hurling-census-2022-population-hurlers-density/>

[3] UNESCO\_ <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/hurling-01263#>

[4] Experience Gaelic games

<https://experiencegaelicgames.com/authentic-irish/hurling/>

[5] Irish independent

<https://www.independent.ie/storyplus/is-hurling-the-fastest-field-sport-in-the-world/31427432.html>

[6] Shannon academy

<https://www.shannonacademy.com/the-differences-between-hurling-and-camogie/#:~:text=One%20of%20the%20main%20difference,which%20is%20illegal%20in%20hurling.>