

## FOOTBALLS IN IRELAND IN THE FOUNDING STAGE OF THE GAA

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### **Introduction**

When Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was established in 1884, there were already two types of modern British footballs, which were rugby and soccer, played in Ireland. Previous studies have revealed how people played rugby or soccer. However, they haven't discussed Gaelic Football's relation with rugby and soccer, perhaps because many studies of Irish sports are mainly interested in political and nationalistic aspects. The aim of this study is to reveal the relation of the playing rules between them.

### **Methods**

First of all, how the playing rule of Gaelic Football was drafted and was changed in the founding stage of the GAA is revealed. Secondly, the playing rule of Gaelic Football is compared with that of rugby and soccer from each official rule. Finally, the relation of the playing rules between them is considered. To do them, we use the each official playing rule of the GAA, the FA and the IRFU (Irish Rugby Football Union) in the period of the founding stage of the GAA.

### **Results & Discussion**

This study revealed the following. The shape of scoring space was the same shape of soccer. The name of position and the personal fouls like pushing, tripping or holding, were similar to those of rugby and soccer. The off-side rule was the one of the most distinguishing rules for rugby and soccer, but Gaelic Football didn't have it.

### **Conclusion**

The playing rule of Gaelic Football was quite similar to that of rugby and soccer, although the GAA was founded for the purpose of preserving and cultivating national pastimes in Ireland. However, Gaelic Football didn't adopt some key rules of rugby and soccer. The GAA might deliberately create Gaelic Football as the new Irish modern sport, although it announced Gaelic Football was one of the national pastimes in Ireland.

### **References**

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