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NUACHT RÁITEAS / MEDIA RELEASE

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SMART Sliotar in use in Allianz Hurling Leagues

The GAA can confirm that for the first time a standardised SMART Sliotar will be in use for the 2023 senior inter-county playing season commencing with this weekend's Allianz Leagues.

The Association has researched and deployed innovative technology in an effort to oversee the regulated production of the sliotar following the variance in performance of sliotars being used in the game previously.

The SMART Sliotar was successfully trialled in last year's o'neills.com U20 hurling championships. The new chip technology will help ensure that sliotars perform consistently and in line with the GAA sliotar specifications which underpin the integrity of the game, both as a contest and as spectacle.

It will also help address sliotar counterfeiting and ensure that ethical production and supply chain practices are in place. All approved manufacturers must be signed up to the guidelines enforced by the World Federation of Sports Goods Industry.

Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy said: "I warmly welcome the introduction of the new standardised chipped SMART Sliotar which comes into full use at senior inter-county level this weekend with the commencement of the Allianz Hurling Leagues.

"Not only will it provide the game with consistency through the performance of the sliotar but of no less importance we have sight of the ethical production of the sliotars.

"I would like to acknowledge the body of work undertaken by the working group over a prolonged period and I look forward to the positive impact that this project is going to have on the game."

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The SMART Sliotar is backed up by robust science and standards and all testing is independently overseen by Dublin City University.

Green Fields and O'Neills have passed the prerequisite sliotar specification and impact tests - where the sliotar is propelled against a wall on 100 occasions - at 50 miles an hour - to ensure that it can withstand the rigours of the game.

The use of a sliotar chip/tag - for sliotar authentication purposes is a new and unique development - and may lead to further developments as technology evolves.

The Sliotar Work Group (SWG) is comprised of Ned Quinn (Chair), Lizzie Broderick, Brendan Cummins, Eoin McDonagh, Terry Reilly and Pat Daly. The group has met 47 times since their formation in June 2021 and held three extensive field-testing sessions.

***For further information contact
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Ends.