



Best Practice for Juvenile Team Composition Supporting Participation & Player Welfare

The main allegiance of a player is to their age group (after they leave the Academy).

Squads are to be kept as small as possible, to support more game time. This means co-operation between age groups and codes is necessary.

Playing up should be supported where older panels are short, or where a player is part of an agreed pool of players to play up (ref below). Due care should be taken that players who 'Play up' should not displace the players of the older team from reasonable game time.

Players playing up should be assigned based on their ability and on the mentor assessment into A / B / C teams in line with the annually approved GAA, LGFA & Camogie or Feile Playing Rules.

Occasionally groups may struggle to field a full second or third team because of the numbers within their group; and by deciding to go with lesser teams a panel might be so generously sized that it will severely limit playing time. In such cases consideration should be given to setting up an agreed pool of players to play up (for games only).

In this scenario where an age group, needs consistent support from the younger age group then this should be discussed at the start of the year between the mentors from both age groups and with the relevant code committee. The younger team mentors are encouraged to support the older team so as to ensure that the Club helps to retain those older players by having a viable team in place. In this scenario the express permission from the relevant code committee must be requested at the start of the year. Mentors of the lower age groups should use this opportunity to rotate players willing and able (both from a physical & skills perspective) play up.

At the end of each year:

All teams will be formally and comprehensively reviewed by Lead Mentors along with Director of Code.

Mentors/Coaches of code should review their respective team players and assess their ability/desire to play for the respective A/B/C teams in their age group – that can help decide the number of teams for the following year and the composition of panels.

Mentor expectations

Mentor to mentor contact and co-operations between codes is critical.

Mentors of the older team should consult with the mentors of the younger teams (in both codes, if applicable) before players play up. Contact should not be made with the player's parent until the relevant mentors in both codes have been appraised of the request, reasonable requests should not be refused where there is parental consent. Unresolved disagreements should be raised with the relevant code committee.

Mentors are appointed by the relevant Director of code in conjunction with the Games committee and approved by the Club Executive. A full list of mentors must be submitted by the Director of Code to the Executive prior to commencement of the playing season for ratification. To avoid confusion a LEAD Mentor must be designated for each team.

There will be an Annual review of management teams by the relevant Code Committee at that level, and where possible a joint review of both management teams of same year.

Over the course of time Mentors / Management will be encouraged to spread their support to A / B / C teams.

Training & Compliance

Mentors who wish to train teams must commit to and attend foundation training courses.

Mentors are not permitted to Coach Juvenile players on their team if their vetting or safeguarding is not up to date.

Problem Resolution Process

Purpose

We recognise that from time to time problems can arise which need to be resolved. We aim to deal with such problems speedily and with fairness to all concerned.

Procedure

Step 1:

If a problem arises, members are encouraged to raise it as soon as possible directly with the other Club Member, or responsible Mentor, Manager or Officer. It is expected that the majority of problems will be solved in this manner.

In the exceptional cases where the initial informal discussion does not produce a solution, the club member should raise the concern with the relevant code committee.

Step 2:

At this stage, informal discussions having taken place without a final resolution, the member may formally communicate their complaint to the relevant code committee (per club website) in line with the committee responsibilities. The issue will be formally noted and considered. Every effort will be made to resolve the problem at this stage through dialogue, application of agreed best practice with reference to rules of the relevant associations and GAA Code of Behaviour. If this effort is successful, no further formal recording will be necessary.

Step 3:

If the matter is not resolved at step 2, the member may submit their formal complaint to the Club Secretary, who will disposition the complaint in accordance with the Guidelines published for this purpose by Cumman Lúthchleas Gael.

Where the issue relates to a breach of the GAA Code of Behaviour, the issue will be addressed in line with Section 4 of the GAA code of Behaviour which deals with “Alleged Breaches of Code of Behaviour (Underage)”. <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/vwghntg0z6cmao9twzcz.pdf>

Any issues regarding child welfare may be referred to the Children’s officer.

***Ratified by Club Executive
January 2021***