

Developing School Club Links

What is a school-club link?

A school-club link is an agreement between a school and a Camogie club to work together to help young girls to realize their ambitions in Camogie by providing pathways for them to follow:

Meet the needs of young girls, whether they want to get involved:

- to try Camogie as a new sport
- to enjoy Camogie and develop their skills
- for social or recreational reasons
- to maintain or develop their fitness
- as an elite performer

Why Develop Club/School Link?

Some schools especially in Urban areas are not aware of what Clubs are in their area

Personal Contact is the best way to promote your club in addition to promotional tools such as posters, flyers and local notices

Children get involved if they know what they're dealing with

Club coaches seen in the familiar surrounding of their school

Children are more likely to attend the club

Unless the girls know where opportunities exist to take part in Camogie they will never engage them

Both parties can work together to promote opportunities to participate in Camogie much more effectively

How will the School benefit from the Club/School link:

Promotes healthy living & exercise to young girls

Increase in number of girls playing camogie

Fantastic social outlet for students

Creates a good atmosphere and sense of school pride – representing your school team in competition

Can help school to achieve Department of Education Active School Flag

About the Active School Flag

The Active School Flag was launched by the Department of Education in 2009.

It is a non-competitive initiative which seeks to recognize schools (both primary and post primary) that strive to achieve a physically active and physically educated school community.

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In order to be awarded the Active School Flag schools must:

Commit to a process of self evaluation in terms of the PE programmes and physical opportunities that they offer

Plan and implement a series of changes that will enhance PE and extracurricular provision and promote physical activity

The initiative encourages a partnership approach. It empowers schools to become more proactive in approaching groups like National Governing Bodies (NGBs), for example Camogie, Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs), the HSE, Education Centres and the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) to help and support them to develop their PE programmes and to promote physical activity

Once awarded the Active School Flag remains valid for a period of three years
For more details on how schools can achieve an active school flag; please see details below.

How will the club benefit from the Club/School link:

Creates a partnership with school

Creates awareness of the club to a wider community base

Helps in recruiting volunteers / parents

Fantastic way of recruiting new members for clubs

Increasing club membership

How can a Club/ School Link Work?

What can the club do?

Provide information and promotional material about the club

Run a competition at the school or between local schools in the community

Run a club open/fun day at the club for the school

Provide coaches to assist with extra curricular clubs

Run a few coaching sessions on the school site during term time

Provide club facilities for sports day or events

What can the school do?

Promote club – highlighting upcoming events and matches

Provide facilities for training sessions

Dedicate a notice board to the club

Provide letters of support for funding applications

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The Club school link liaison officer:

Who could the Club/School liaison person be?

Family members of current players

Retirees from Camogie Club

Stay at home mums or dads; Why not ask a parent whose daughter is attending the school to act as a liaison officer.

Role of Club / School Liaison Officer

Build a relationship with the School & Teachers on behalf of the club

Service the school on an on-going basis with information regarding club activities

Create a positive attitude among the parents and students towards the club

To organise and control the development of camogie in school

That can be available during school time.

Volunteers that may be willing to organise day events for schools

Appoints School Coach & Volunteers

Responsibilities:

Co-ordinate and consult with members of the club and school through an effective communication system, including a formal meeting at least three/four times a year

On-going liaison with schools coaches /teachers throughout the season with regards to problems and requirements

Consult school staff regarding sessions, games and blitz's, as it may affect other activities in the school

Actively promote Camogie in the school and acknowledge staff goodwill in the implementation of the link.

School Liaison Officer Survey

Survey the School

Amount of girls attending the school?

How many girls are currently playing camogie?

How many are currently playing with clubs?

Is there any teacher involved in a GAA Club?

Is there currently a school team in existence?

What equipment is available to use?

Establishing a Structure

Club itself must take Ownership of this Link.

Establishing a Structure

Identify School(s) in the catchment area to the Camogie club.

Appoint club-school liaison person to approach school.

This person is not to be the coach.

Recruit Players, family members with free time Volunteers – Teacher in the school,

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retired persons.

The camogie coach must be Reliable and Enthusiastic, club should fund coaches qualification.

Funding – Does the club have monies available to promote this / is there a need for funding.

Is there a GAA coach already attending the school

Set rules the club & school will operate under & define roles & responsibilities.

Putting a link into practice

Getting started

Reaching an agreement – owned jointly by the Camogie club and the school – helps to establish ground rules and manage expectations for the link.

Five Steps to establishing School/ Club Link

Step 1 - Write a letter to the school principal outlining the youth activities in the Club
- The club youth/coaching officer and chairperson should hand deliver the letter to the principal

- Ask for a follow up meeting with the principal and if applicable PE co-ordinator

Step 2 - Meet the principal and the PE co-ordinator

Outline the clubs work in the community

Highlight the Club youth and coaching programme

At the meeting:

Make arrangements for promoting the club activities within the school and vice versa

Agree contacts from both the school and the club

Step 3 - Establish a Club notice board in the school

Updated weekly

Informing the children of the club activities and events

Circulate a monthly newsletter to all the children to encourage them to become involved in the club

Step 4 - Host school games and blitzes at club pitch

- The club should offer the school use of its facilities for its community and sporting events

Step 5 - Build on the new partnership

- The club and school should link together on new projects and schemes that will encourage children to get involved in Camogie

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What makes a School/Club Link Effective and Successful?

When a school and club are working well together, they:

Talk to each other regularly

Respect each other

Have a shared vision and approach; Agree expectations and goals

Find ways of enabling young people to take part in activity

Share and develop teaching and coaching expertise

Recognize, share and celebrate achievements

Share facilities, equipment and resources

School Coach

Ideally coach to have Coaching Certificate or course completed

Children to associate coach with local camogie club

Aware of different skill levels of players at young ages

Enthusiastic, Motivating & Organised with a plan of what he/she wants to achieve in a given timeframe

Incorporate FUN into coaching sessions

Be Garda vetted

Quality Coaching of Basic Drills

Coaching the Fundamentals

Correct Hurley size is essential

Emphasis on Fun & Participation

All must be treated equally & given a fair chance to improve

ABC method is vital

Plenty of Game Play

Targets must be set

Basic rules of Camogie to be coached

Go Games must be incorporated into sessions

At all times players to be told of training sessions & matches taking place in the club & invited to come along

Hosting competitions within the Club

Throughout the year / End of School year / Beginning summer holidays

Blitz competition of all schools in catchment area

To be held in Camogie club itself

Parents enticed to come along

Parish League

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