



**CLG Na Fianna**

**Juvenile Games Handbook**

**May 2024**



|                                                                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction .....                                                                   | 5  |
| Na Fianna Juvenile Section Vision .....                                              | 6  |
| Section 1 .....                                                                      | 6  |
| Juvenile Structure .....                                                             | 6  |
| Role, Contact, Overview of Role.....                                                 | 6  |
| Overall Club Executive 2024 .....                                                    | 7  |
| Key Contacts 2024.....                                                               | 8  |
| Dates for Juvenile Committee Meetings 2024.....                                      | 8  |
| Mentors, Child Protection and Policy Documents .....                                 | 9  |
| Club subscriptions/ Registration of Players .....                                    | 9  |
| Club communication.....                                                              | 10 |
| Section 2 .....                                                                      | 11 |
| Role of Juvenile Mentor.....                                                         | 11 |
| Coaching.....                                                                        | 12 |
| The Process of Planning .....                                                        | 12 |
| Player Pathway .....                                                                 | 13 |
| Coaching and games development.....                                                  | 14 |
| Mentor Development.....                                                              | 14 |
| Introduction to coaching gaelic games (formerly the foundation course).....          | 14 |
| Award 1 Child .....                                                                  | 14 |
| Award 1 Youth and Adult .....                                                        | 15 |
| Award 2 Child .....                                                                  | 15 |
| Award 2 Youth and Adult .....                                                        | 15 |
| Skill Specific Workshops .....                                                       | 15 |
| Annual Parents Meeting .....                                                         | 15 |
| Child Protection .....                                                               | 17 |
| Garda Vetting, Child Safeguarding and Foundation Coaching Training in NaFianna ..... | 17 |
| 2024 Teams: Points of contact.....                                                   | 21 |
| Section 3 - Playing Games .....                                                      | 23 |
| Boys Games .....                                                                     | 23 |



|                                                                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Girls Games.....                                                                            | 23 |
| Purchase of Equipment .....                                                                 | 24 |
| Mobile Goals/ Goal Safety.....                                                              | 24 |
| Numbered jerseys .....                                                                      | 24 |
| Mouth guards .....                                                                          | 25 |
| Toilets, Hygiene and First Aid .....                                                        | 25 |
| Defibrillators.....                                                                         | 25 |
| Referees.....                                                                               | 26 |
| Boys Football and Hurling.....                                                              | 26 |
| Girls Football.....                                                                         | 26 |
| Juvenile Camogie.....                                                                       | 27 |
| Return of Match Results .....                                                               | 28 |
| Boys Hurling and Football.....                                                              | 28 |
| Ladies Football and Camogie .....                                                           | 28 |
| Away Trips .....                                                                            | 29 |
| Friendly and Challenge Games / Games outside Dublin (Notification to County Boards).....    | 30 |
| Players Injury Schemes.....                                                                 | 30 |
| Na Fianna Policy on Player Injury:.....                                                     | 30 |
| Club Policy on Playing Within Age .....                                                     | 31 |
| Playing 2 years out of age .....                                                            | 32 |
| Merging Age Groups.....                                                                     | 32 |
| Feile (U15 Championship/ Blitz) .....                                                       | 32 |
| Policy on Playing of Younger Players.....                                                   | 32 |
| Guiding Principles.....                                                                     | 33 |
| Girls U13-16 Guiding Principles (to be applied to Girls U8-12 also, where applicable) ..... | 34 |
| Section 4- Pitches and Facilities .....                                                     | 36 |
| Na Fianna Facilities Pitch Equipment Update 2024 .....                                      | 38 |
| Overview.....                                                                               | 38 |
| Fixtures and Pitch Bookings .....                                                           | 45 |
| Allocation of Playing Pitches.....                                                          | 46 |



|                                              |    |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Training Schedules .....                     | 47 |
| All Weather Pitch Care .....                 | 48 |
| Section 5 - Frequently Asked Questions ..... | 49 |



## Introduction

Fáilte,

The Na Fianna Juvenile Section is one of the largest and most vibrant in the country. We cater for boys and girls playing football, hurling, camogie, rounders and handball from ages 4 to 16. We have more than 100 juvenile teams currently playing our games and more than 400 children in our nursery every Saturday morning.

Na Fianna is a very important part of the lives of our young members. Friendships made now will endure for many years to come. Everything we do in the Na Fianna Juvenile section is done on a voluntary basis by our mentors. Some of these mentors have played for Na Fianna in the past. Some still play for Na Fianna. Some knew nothing about Gaelic games until their children showed an interest. Everyone is welcome regardless of their experience playing sport. The more people that are involved the more fun it is for everyone and the lighter the load. We want a lot doing a little instead of a little doing a lot.

After our players, our mentors are the most important people in the Club. They train our boys and girls, arrange matches, wash jerseys, interact with referees and other officials, deal with bruises and bumps and watch young players grow through the ranks until, as 17-year-olds, they enter the adult section of the Club.

This handbook is a compilation of all the information we think mentors will need to carry out their role and to support them as best we can. It is a work in progress. If you don't find the answers you are looking for, please let us know and they will be added to next year's edition.

This handbook should be viewed in conjunction with the [GAA's Code of Behaviour](#) which has been agreed between the GAA, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA), the Camogie Association, GAA Handball Ireland and the Rounders Council of Ireland. We all have a responsibility to coach, lead, support and play in a manner that is befitting of our club and our association and adherence to best practice across the board is a must.

I hope you find this resource to be of value - it is a live document and is updated each year. Thank you for the role you play in CLG Na Fianna. It is really appreciated.

Michael Carr Juvenile Chairperson

April 2024



## Na Fianna Juvenile Section Vision

To bring as many players as possible through to Minor level with the necessary skills to perform under match conditions at a grade that is appropriate to their ability.

We want our players to enjoy playing our games, be proud to be part of Na Fianna, to build lasting friendships through the Club and to achieve their potential in playing Gaelic games.

## Section 1

### Juvenile Structure

#### Role, Contact, Overview of Role

**Juvenile Games Chairperson, Michael Carr:** Lead Juvenile Committee, Represent Juvenile section at club executive meetings, Chair Juvenile meetings Coordinate mentor ratification

**Juvenile Secretary, John Nisbet:** Facilitate communication between Dublin County Board and Juvenile Coordinators / Mentors, Team Entry into competitions, Juvenile report for AGM - FOR ALL BOYS TEAMS, Attend and minute meetings of Juvenile Games Committee

**Club Secretary, Therese McGlinchey:** Facilitate communication between Dublin County Board and Juvenile Coordinators / Mentors - FOR ALL GIRLS TEAMS

**Nursery Coordinator:** TBC Boys and Girls 4yrs – 7yrs Football / Hurling / Camogie

**CCC1 Coordinator:** Eimear O'Connor, Boys Under 8 - 12 Football / Hurling

**CCC2 Coordinator:** Brian Coughlan, Boys Under 13 - 16 Football / Hurling

**Girls1 & 2 Football Coordinator:** Art Fitzpatrick, Girls Under 8 – 16 Football

**Girls1 & 2 Camogie Coordinator:** Edel Cassidy, Girls Under 8 - 16 Camogie

**Designated Liaison Person, Pairic Clerkin:** Implementation of Club Child Protection Policy Liaise with Children's Officers.

**Childrens' Officer, John Nisbet:** Children's welfare within the Club

**GPO, Mark Cooper:** Coaching Strategy Mentor Support/Training School Support, Nursery, Mini Leagues, Summer Camps / Cul Camps

**Referee Coordinator, Boys Football and Hurling: Anne O'Dea:** Arranges home referees for U8-U10 and away for U11-U12 Arranges referees for challenge matches

**Referee Coordinator - Girls Football: Audrey Dawson:** Contact your lead mentors for Referee lists



**Referee Coordinator – Camogie: Ann Ryan:** Arranges referees for camogie matches

## Overall Club Executive 2024

Chairman: Cormac O'Donnchu

Vice Chairman: Colm O'Ceallachain

Secretary: Therese McGlinchey

Treasurer: Downey Keegan

Registrar: Stephen Downes

Assistant Treasurer: Lesley Jamieson

Public Relations Officer: TBC

Adult Games Chairman: Andy Matthews

Juvenile Games Chairman: Michael Carr

Children's Officer: John Nisbet

Players' Representative: Liam Stacey

Cultural & Language Officer: Grainne Ryan

Ordinary Members (x3): Edel Cassidy, Finbar Gaffney, Fearghal Scanlon



## Key Contacts 2024

| <b>Position</b>                                   | <b>Name</b>                 | <b>Mobile Number</b>            | <b>Email</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Juvenile Games Chairman</i>                    | Michael Carr                | 086 332 0771                    | <a href="mailto:chairpersonbng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie">chairpersonbng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie</a>                                                                                     |
| <i>Juvenile Secretary &amp; Childrens Officer</i> | John Nisbet                 | 087 2892528                     | <a href="mailto:secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie">secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie</a><br><a href="mailto:childrensofficer@clgnafianna.ie">childrensofficer@clgnafianna.ie</a> |
| <i>GPO (Games Promotion Officer)</i>              | Mark Cooper                 | 086 0554661                     | <a href="mailto:scoop8@gmail.com">scoop8@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                               |
| <i>PRO (Public Relations Officer)</i>             | Several people work at this | Email news and items for Nuacht | <a href="mailto:pro.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie">pro.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie</a>                                                                                                           |
| <i>Fixtures Coordinator</i>                       | Colm Davis                  | 087 9650232                     | <a href="mailto:fixtures@clgnafianna.ie">fixtures@clgnafianna.ie</a>                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Football Referees co-ordinator</i>             | Anne O'Dea                  | 087 2446053                     | <a href="mailto:annemodea@gmail.com">annemodea@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                         |
| <i>Camogie Referees co-ordinator</i>              | Ann Ryan                    | 086 3400387                     | <a href="mailto:anncatherineryan@gmail.com">anncatherineryan@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                           |
| <i>Designated Liason Person</i>                   | Pairic Clerkin              | 087 9792242                     | <a href="mailto:pairicclerkin@gmail.com">pairicclerkin@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Ladies Football Board Delegates</i>            | Ciaran Rogers               | 087 8142376                     | <a href="mailto:ciaranjrogers@gmail.com">ciaranjrogers@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Ladies Camogie Board Delegate</i>              | Anne Barrett                | 086 3168230                     | <a href="mailto:camogiedelegate@clgnafianna.ie">camogiedelegate@clgnafianna.ie</a>                                                                                                   |
| <i>Girls Football – U8 – U16</i>                  | Art Fitzpatrick             | 086 8118395                     | <a href="mailto:artfitzp@gmail.com">artfitzp@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Girls Camogie – U8 – U16</i>                   | Edel Cassidy                | 086 3335300                     | <a href="mailto:edelcassidy1@gmail.com">edelcassidy1@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>Boys – CCC1 U8 – U12</i>                       | Eimear O'Connor             | 087 7798016                     | <a href="mailto:eimearmarie.oconnor@gmail.com">eimearmarie.oconnor@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                     |
| <i>Boys – CCC2 U13 – U16</i>                      | Brian Coughlan              | 087 0553861                     | <a href="mailto:brian_x_coughlan@hotmail.com">brian x coughlan@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                       |
| <i>Nursery Co-ordinator</i>                       | TBC                         |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Club Registrar</i>                             | Stephen Downes              | 087 2198876                     | <a href="mailto:registrar@clgnafianna.ie">registrar@clgnafianna.ie</a>                                                                                                               |

## Dates for Juvenile Committee Meetings 2024

Thursday 1st February, Committee Rooms, 8.30pm

Thursday 13th June, Committee Rooms, 8.30pm

Wednesday 28th August, Committee Rooms, 8.30pm

Thursday 21st November, Committee Rooms, 8.30pm



## Mentors, Child Protection and Policy Documents

Mentors, Group Administrators/Coordinators, coaches and anybody who has dealings with individuals who are Under 18 are required to be ratified by the Club Executive each year at the commencement of the season.

This includes a review of their Garda Vetting and Membership Status and confirmation that they have completed Child Safeguarding Training and a Foundation Coaching course. A lead mentor, and possibly an Administrator/Coordinator, is appointed within each year group and game code to assist with this process alongside the Juvenile Committee and the Children's Officer.

The Lead mentor / Administrator/Coordinator is responsible for ensuring effective communication among their mentors and implementation of Club policies and initiatives. Mentor and Administrator/Coordinator contact details are listed at the end of this section and on the Association websites.

Various other policy documents which relate to the Juvenile section are available in the downloads section of the Club's website [www.clgnafianna.ie](http://www.clgnafianna.ie) including the Club's Constitution and the Club code of Ethics & Guidelines for the Protection of Children.

Additional documentation is available through each associations' websites - including competition rules and regulations.

<https://clgnafianna.com/> - information under the 'Resources' tab

<https://www.dublingaa.ie/juvenile> - Boys Hurling and Football information

<https://dublinladiesgaelic.ie/> - Girls Football - information under the 'Underage' tab and the 'Info' tab

<https://www.dublincamogie.ie/> - Girls Camogie

## Club subscriptions/ Registration of Players

Being a member of the club is a requirement for all those looking to take part in the activities of CLG Na Fianna.

Only paid up members will be registered, with the club and their relevant county board. Any player who has not paid the appropriate playing membership subscription will not be permitted to train or play matches - as they are not covered in any way in the event of an injury. All mentors and co-ordinators must be paid up members of the Club. Membership forms are available on [www.clgnafianna.ie](http://www.clgnafianna.ie). - include direct link

Lists of paid up members are held by the club registrar - [registrar@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:registrar@clgnafianna.ie)



The GAA membership website [www.foireann.ie](http://www.foireann.ie) maintains this database centrally and it is important that every member uses this platform to keep their Registration/Garda Vetting/Training up to date.

## Club communication

Along with the Club Website <https://clgnafianna.com/>, there are 4 formal channels of communication.

Nuacht -The Club Newsletter

The objective of Na Fianna Nuacht is to communicate as much club activity as possible however it is important to note that all items for inclusion in either Club Notes or Na Fianna Nuacht are reported to [pro.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:pro.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie) -

Any members can subscribe to the Nuacht by clicking [here](#)

Twitter / X

Facebook.

Individual WhatsApp groups - All Juvenile mentors should Join 'NF Juvenile Mentors' and all lead mentors should join 'NAF Leads' - both are used regularly to keep mentors and leads up to date.

Please DO pass on to the Club Public relations Officer - [pro@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:pro@clgnafianna.ie) any interesting news items / match results regarding your team.



## Section 2

### Role of Juvenile Mentor

Na Fianna is a voluntary organisation and all our activities are organised by our own members. Juvenile mentors, often parents and guardians of our young players, are the people who organise and manage training and matches. There is also a role of Administrator/Co-ordinator, who may not actively train groups but who is involved in the administration of a year group or team. This role has the same obligations as mentor, frees up lead mentors to concentrate more on skills and training, and creates a better focus on other activities such as the roll call, promotion of club social and fundraising activities etc.

Mentors are usually recruited when they first bring their children down to our Saturday nursery in Mobhi Road. A gentle tap on the shoulder to help out, results in quick entry to the rank of mentor. This can be a very rewarding role – guiding young players who can barely kick a ball or hold a hurl through the age grades, helping each one to play to the best of their ability. The Mentor's role is influenced by the personal capacity and drive of the individual and can encompass:

- Organising and running of training sessions
- Communicating time and venue of fixtures and ensuring sufficient numbers to field teams
- Organising and managing teams on match days
- Coaching & developing juvenile players to the best of their ability
- Encouraging players to give the best of themselves for the team
- Ensuring teams have necessary equipment to train and play Gaelic games in a safe environment e.g. footballs, sliotars, bibs, cones, stakes to tie down goals etc.
- Return of match results to County Board (mostly via email and automated text service)
- Promoting and supporting the Club's social and fundraising activities
- Ensuring that player's time spent with you is a positive experience.
- Establishing a Training and Development Plan for year ahead
- Organising an annual meeting with the Parents of the players

#### The role of the lead mentor

The lead mentor is the coordinator of the year groups' activities. They act as a liaison between the club and the group. Ideally this role is shared with some other mentors in the group and there is lots of support for the lead mentor(s) from the Club. The Club Coaching Staff, The Juvenile Chairperson and the Juvenile Secretary can all offer support and assistance with everything that a group needs from organising games to fundraising and development.

The role of lead mentor is an important one but it is well supported and the jobs are easily shared.



## Coaching

Coaching is a 4 part process:

- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

### The Process of Planning

- Knowing Where your players are now...Taking stock
- Deciding where you want players to be...Goal setting
- Working out how to get there...Planning
- Understanding your knowledge base as a coach... Implementing
- Knowing when/if you have arrived... Monitoring and evaluation
- Benefits of good planning
- Understanding-What to do.
- Confidence- The coach.
- Reduces time that the players are not active.
- Selecting appropriate activities.
- Trust from parents.
- Create goals for the player to achieve.

#### *Plan for the Season -*

Coaches and mentors are encouraged to plan for the season ahead. We have had regular coaching workshops throughout the years related to the topic of planning. Some supporting resources can be found below.

[Na Fianna Annual season Planner](#)

[Na Fianna Sample Session Planner](#) for one group

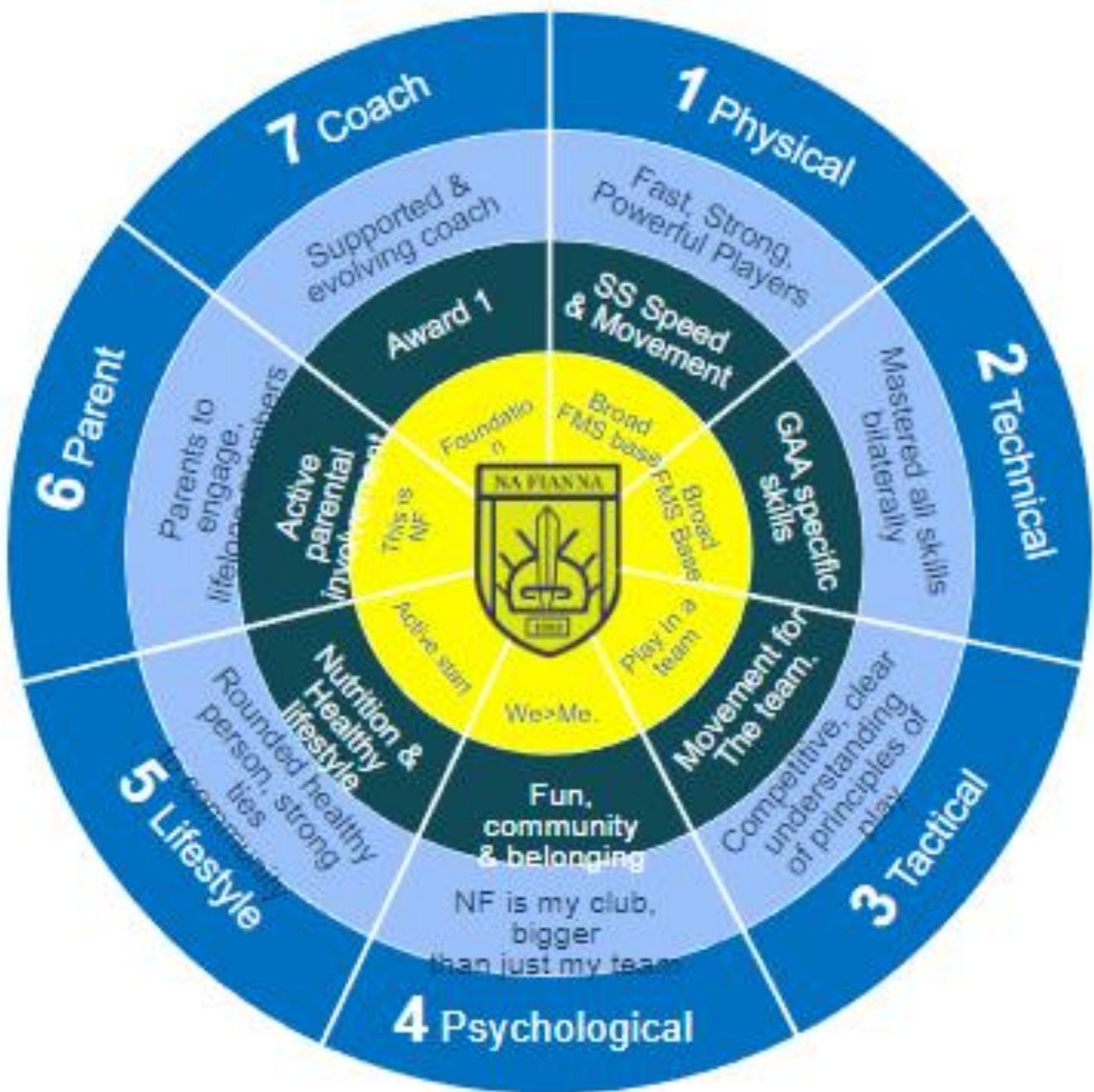
[Na Fianna Sample Session Planner](#) for multiple groups



## Player Pathway

The Na Fianna Player pathway model maps out the incremental development of players starting from 4 years of age up to minor. It maps out the needs of the players and the requirements of the mentors under 7 different heading.

[View the player Pathway presentation here](#)





## Coaching and games development

The club's full-time coaching officers keep mentors informed of training and coaching skills courses which are organised throughout the year. They will also work with mentors in devising training programmes for their teams and will run training sessions for teams when requested or necessary. We would encourage all mentors to actively engage.

See the following websites for coaching ideas, drills etc.:

[Na Fianna's own coaching portal with links to hundreds of coaching videos](#)

[www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie)

[www.dublinladiesgaelic.ie](http://www.dublinladiesgaelic.ie)

[www.dublincamogie.ie](http://www.dublincamogie.ie)

[www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)

[www.dublingaagamesdevelopment.ie](http://www.dublingaagamesdevelopment.ie)

## Mentor Development

There are an increasing number of courses available for mentors to help them improve their Coaching skills.

The majority of these courses are run as part of the annual club coaching programme

### Introduction to coaching gaelic games (formerly the foundation course)

The course is aimed at beginner coaches and will enable participants to assist a coach in the organisation of activities to develop Hurling or Gaelic football.

It is expected that all Club Coaches and Mentors will attend at a minimum a ICGG Course in Coaching.

The ICGG are delivered at minimum of twice a year by the club full coaching officers.

### Award 1 Child

Aimed at: Coaches of Juvenile Teams (U12 and below) with entry Requirements of ICGG Level

Course Candidates will be 16 years or over.

Candidates will be asked to abide by the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport



## Award 1 Youth and Adult

Aimed at: Coaches of Juvenile Teams (U13 to adult teams) with entry Requirements of ICGG Level

Course Candidates will be 18 years or over. Candidates will be asked to abide by the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport

## Award 2 Child

The Award 2 Coach Education course is the third award on the coaching pathway of Gaelic games. The course is aimed at coaches that have progressed through the ICGG Award and Award 1 programmes and are currently coaching at CCC1 level. This course is run centrally by Dublin GAA and participants are selected on nomination basis by the club coaching and games committee.

## Award 2 Youth and Adult

The Award 2 Coach Education course is the third award on the coaching pathway of Gaelic games. The course is aimed at coaches that have progressed through the ICGG Award and Award 1 programmes and are currently coaching at CCC2/Adult level. This course is run centrally by Dublin GAA and participants are selected on nomination basis by the club coaching and games committee.

## Skill Specific Workshops

There is also an ongoing series of Coaching Workshops that the club coaching officers will organise and promote with the club coaching community - These are advertised in the Coaching Calendar each year.

## Annual Parents Meeting

Mentors are encouraged to have an annual meeting with the parents of the year group.

A suggested Agenda for this meeting is set out below (some of these items may not apply to your year group)

- Format of season ahead including any changes in rules from the previous year
- Depending on the group you may need to address the concept and process of Streaming.
- Fixture list for the Season
- Teams structure for the year or semester ahead
- Reminder of importance of turning up for training and games
- Reminder of a timely response to mentor communications re matches and/or training
- Reminder on payment of Club fees following AGM in October
- Update on team fundraising plans
- Dietary discussion
- Details on Summer away day trip



- Support for Na Fianna general fundraising initiatives
- Supporting Na Fianna Senior teams
- How can parents get more involved
- setting up pitches
- taking stats at matches
- Code of Best Practice

Na Fianna fully supports and used the GAA's Code of best practice: This Code has been agreed between the GAA, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, the Camogie Association, GAA Handball Ireland and the Rounders Council of Ireland. The Code replaces all previous Codes and is a mandatory Code of Best Practice for all Gaelic Games Associations in our work with underage players.

The GAA Code of Behaviour complements the Sport Ireland Code of Ethics and Our Games - Our Code, the joint Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and addresses the appropriate levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our young players, officials, coaches, trainers, mentors, supporters, parents/guardians and clubs.

The GAA Code of Behaviour is jointly promoted by the GAA, the Camogie Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, Irish Handball Council and Rounders Council of Ireland.

[View the relevant documents here](#)



## Child Protection

### Child Protection Governance & Compliance – Process Overview

#### Due Date

- 1 Juvenile Games Manager (JGM) and Adult Games Manager (AGM) email all mentors/leads/coaches/helpers from previous season to advise of return date to club action in January and remind them of what is required to satisfy Child Protection requirements by law for the coming season. (and wait times for Garda Vetting etc.)
- 2 Players, mentors and parents making preparations for end of the season. Adult Games Manager and Juvenile Games Manager confirm in writing to Child Protection Officer the names, email addresses and mobiles of lead mentors/Manager for all teams under their remit that are impacted by this legislation for the coming season.
- 3 Children's Officer contacts each lead mentor/manager ONCE asking them to complete a simple template with the names of all mentors/coaches/helpers who are involved with each team Under 18. Lead Mentor/Manager returns the list within 2 weeks, Children's Officer replies within 2 weeks with status of each name on the list and ANY gaps are clearly called out. Lead mentor/Manager is advised those with gaps cannot mentor/coach/be involved with an Under 18 until all child protection requirements have been met and they have been approved by the Club Executive. All other mentors, coaches and helpers with the correct child protection status are approved by Club Executive for the year.
- 4 Children's Officer informs JGM and AGM of any lead mentors/coaches who have not engaged with an action plan to close gaps. JGM and AGM e-mail those individuals to remind them of their responsibilities and that they cannot be involved with any player Under 18 until Child Protection criteria are met. JGM and AGM advise individuals involved they have four weeks to ensure action plan is in place and all needs met or they will be referred to the club discipline committee and/or the Executive.
- 5 JGM, AGM and Child Protection Officer submit remaining names for ratification to the Executive once all Child Protection requirements have been met. JGM & AGM confirm that at every monthly meeting, question will be asked if there are any additions to Child Protection master list and if there are, Child Protection Officer will be informed immediately. Appropriate steps will then be taken to ensure new names have the required status to be approved by the Executive committee when they next meet.
- 6 Mandatory Governance is added to Executive Agenda every 3 months and remains a standing item for review, discussion and approval where required. All actions taken by JGM, AGM, Children's Officer and Executive to be minuted at appropriate meeting and saved on appropriate drive securely.

November

December

Early January

Late January

Early February

Ongoing



Each year the Lead Mentor/coordinator must supply the Mentors Registrar with a full list of their proposed Mentors, including phone and email contact details.

Each year the Na Fianna Club Executive ratifies the mentors involved in working with our juvenile teams.

This includes ensuring mentors have

- Undergone the GAA's Garda Vetting process
- Have completed the Child Safeguarding training
- Have completed the Foundation Coaching training
- Are paid up members of the Club

All mentors are requested to keep these details up-to-date through [www.foireann.ie](http://www.foireann.ie) and the Tobar system at [learning.gaa.ie](http://learning.gaa.ie)

### Garda Vetting, Child Safeguarding and Foundation Coaching Training in NaFianna

CLG Na Fianna follows the GAA rules on these three essential items that a mentor must complete.



### *Vetting in Na Fianna*

The GAA has a long established principle of vetting any person who, on our behalf, works with children or vulnerable adults in our Association. This principle is enshrined in rule through our Code of Behaviour (Underage) and has become part of the overall recruitment and selection process for those who wish to work with us in the GAA, in a voluntary or paid role.

Vetting services for the Association are currently overseen by the National Childrens Office in Croke Park.

Vetting in the GAA is for a period of three years.

### **Who needs to be vetted?**

The National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 - 2016 commenced on 29th April 2016 and from that date the Act provides a legislative basis for the mandatory vetting of persons who wish to undertake certain activities relating to children or vulnerable persons. In the GAA any person who carries out a role of responsibility such as coaching, managing or training underage teams that contain any player under 18 yrs. of age must be vetted. It also applies to organising underage activities or refereeing underage games.

**Coaches:** In the context of the GAA those members, i.e. coaches, trainers, mentors, parents and others who provide services to children and vulnerable adults, on behalf of the Association, and who are in direct contact with children or vulnerable persons in the GAA shall be vetted. It should be noted that it will be illegal for an individual to put themselves forward to work with children or vulnerable adults before successfully completing the Garda Vetting Bureau process.

**Committee members:** As a policy of best practice, it is strongly recommended that Officers of Committees that oversee underage and juvenile activities at Club and County level should also be vetted.

**Referees:** Referees of underage games must also be vetted.

### **Exceptions to this rule**

It is a huge benefit to the club to have adult players contributing to the mentoring of Juvenile or Minor teams. Their input and leadership is of immense value and we want to facilitate that while also ensuring that the highest level of child safeguarding procedures are followed.

Players / new mentors could be involved in a number of sessions with a team or group without being vetted or having attended safeguarding training. They must be shadowed or accompanied by a fully ratified mentor at the session.

If their involvement is more significant than this then they should begin the vetting and safeguarding training process immediately.



Guest speakers or lecturers do not need to complete such a process. If their involvement becomes more significant then they should begin the vetting and safeguarding processes. It is important that they are also shadowed or accompanied by a fully ratified mentor at the session.

### **How can you be vetted through the GAA?**

The GAA Vetting System is now part of Foireann.

#### **Step 1 Logging in to Foireann**

- You will need to create an account to begin the vetting process. Log in to Foireann
- You will need to select the Club that you are a member of and wish to be vetted under. Your Club will then approve your membership.
- If you have an account already or have difficulties in creating an account please contact Logging into Foireann – Gaelic Athletic Association

#### ***Step 2 Gaelic Games Vetting Invitation Form***

[Click here for guidance on how to complete Gaelic Games Vetting Invitation Form](#)

Once you have logged into your account on Foireann please click on the Qualifications and Vetting tab and then click Apply to be Vetted. Please ensure your current details on your profile are correct. Please then select your Club and or Association you wish to be vetted for and the role you are applying for vetting. For most people it will be as a mentor of U18 players.

It is a requirement by the Garda National Vetting Bureau that an individual seeking vetting is validated that the individual is who they say they are. Therefore, you must provide proof of your identity to be vetted. You must complete this requirement at the initial step of your application, failure to do so will see your application rejected.

[Download the ID Validation form here](#)

[FOR U18s – Parental Consent form is also required – download it here](#)

It is now a requirement to upload a copy or screenshot of your Photo ID (passport or drivers' licence) and a proof of your current address in the form of a Utility Bill (no more than 6 months old). You are also required to print and sign the Gaelic Game Vetting ID Validation Form and upload this as part of your vetting application.

Your Club Children's Officer will then check your ID Documentation and your signed Gaelic Games Vetting ID Validation Form. If the documents are correct your application will be validated by your Club



Children's Officer and submitted to the GAA. If the documents are not correct your Club Children's Officer will reject your application and you will be required to upload the correct documentation.

### *Step 3 Completing the National Vetting Bureau EVetting Application form*

Once you complete the Gaelic Games Invitation Form the information provided is forwarded to the NVB by the GAA and you will receive an on-line NVB Vetting Form to complete. Please do not contact the National Vetting Bureau (NVB) regarding your application as they are unable to deal with individual requests from GAA applicants. If you have a query regarding your application, please contact the GAA and not the National Vetting Bureau.

The NVB will issue you with the NVB Vetting Application form. This will be issued to the email address you provided in your Gaelic Games Invitation Form.

Completing this form is a confidential matter between you and the NVB. All sections of the form including current and previous addresses, email address and contact telephone numbers, information on convictions and prosecutions (if any), plus other information will be required when completing the form.

Once all sections of the form have been answered this then completes your application process for E Vetting in the GAA and within a short period of time you shall be contacted by the GAA to inform you as to the outcome of the vetting application.

You and your Club Children's Officer will be notified when the vetting process has been completed.

A person must be in receipt of a vetting acceptance letter before the person can commence their role.

Each of the three Gaelic Games Associations recognise each other's vetting. All GAA Vetting queries should be forwarded to [evetting@gaa.ie](mailto:evetting@gaa.ie)

### *Re-vetting in the GAA*

Vetting in the GAA is for a three-year period. If you are required to be re-vetted then you must complete a new application by completing Steps 1 to 3

### *Designated Liaison Person*

The Club is obliged to have a Designated Liaison Person who is responsible for reporting allegations of abuse to the statutory authorities. Any disclosures of abuse or potential abuse must be reported to the Designated Liaison Person. - Na Fianna's DLP is Pairic Clerkin - 087 9792242 - [pairicclerkin@gmail.com](mailto:pairicclerkin@gmail.com)

### *Children's Officer*

The Club also has a Children's Officer. Any issues regarding child welfare may be referred to them - they also coordinate the Garda Vetting and Child Safeguarding training in the club. The Children's Officer in Na Fianna is -John Nisbet - 0872892528 - [childrensofficer@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:childrensofficer@clgnafianna.ie)



### *Complaints procedure*

The Club has an official complaints procedure available on the Club website at

<http://www.clgnafianna.com/complaint-procedure>

The complaints procedure ensures the efficient, transparent and fair processing of complaints made against officers, officials, mentors, managers, members and supporters of the Club.

### *Communications, including Social Media*

Mentors should never communicate by text or email with an individual under the age of 18.

All group texts / emails should be sent to parents. However, if a parent wishes the mentor to send the group text or email to a different number / email address to their own (i.e. the child) they must put this request in writing to the mentor. The mentor must retain this written request.

If an underage player obtains a mentor's phone number or email address and attempts to make direct contact with the mentor, he / she must instruct the child not to do so and inform their parent / guardian of same. The mentor should also seek advice from a member of the juvenile committee if this happens.

The club has adopted the [GAA Social Media Policies & Guidelines](#)

### *Transports and Lifts*

As an overall rule – no adult should ever be alone with a U18 young person that is not in their own family. This applies to all situations – private coaching conversations should always take place in an open door situation or with another ratified mentor present.

This rule includes lifts to and from games and training sessions. Such lifts are a key part of the life of a GAA club. Ideally the lift should be given by a parent of one of the passengers and in such cases vetting is not required. However anyone who is providing transport without being related to the passengers must be vetted and have completed Child Safeguarding Training. In this case the driver should never be alone in the car with a passenger who is under 18.

### **2024 Teams: Points of contact**

The following mentors are the initial points of contact with each year group, code and sex. If contacted they can assist you in finding the right person within their wider group.

**2008, Boys (U16)**, Gary Bateson, Football, 086-8259990, [gary.bateson@pernod-ricard.com](mailto:gary.bateson@pernod-ricard.com)

**2008, Boys (U16)**, Alan Shorthall, Hurling, 086-6087062, [shortallalan@hotmail.com](mailto:shortallalan@hotmail.com)

**2008, Girls (U16)**, Art Fitzpatrick, Camogie & Football, 0868118395, [artfitzp@gmail.com](mailto:artfitzp@gmail.com)



- 2009, Boys (U15),** Tom Dowd, Hurling, 087-2488569, [td.1111@hotmail.com](mailto:td.1111@hotmail.com)
- 2009, Boys (U15),** Barry Maher, Football, 085-7375045, [barrymaher@gmail.com](mailto:barrymaher@gmail.com)
- 2009, Girls (U15),** Ian Moloney, Gavin Jennings , Camogie & Football, 087-9328808, 087-7977055, [gavin.jennings@rte.ie](mailto:gavin.jennings@rte.ie), [ian.moloney@hjlyons.com](mailto:ian.moloney@hjlyons.com)
- 2010, Boys (U14),** Brian Coughlan, Hurling & Football, 0870553861, [brian\\_coughlan@hotmail.com](mailto:brian_coughlan@hotmail.com)
- 2010, Girls (U14),** Dave Steenson, Camogie & Football, 086-8200385, [david.steenson@gmail.com](mailto:david.steenson@gmail.com)
- 2011, Boys (U13),** Michael Carr, Hurling & Football, 0863320771, [michael.carr@tudublin.ie](mailto:michael.carr@tudublin.ie)
- 2011, Girls (U13),** Paul Jensen, Camogie & Football, 0851679609, [paul.e.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:paul.e.jensen@gmail.com)
- 2012, Boys (U12),** Mike Henry, Hurling & Football, 0868359787, [mhenrycltd@gmail.com](mailto:mhenrycltd@gmail.com)
- 2012, Girls (U12),** Barry Maher, Camogie & Football, 085-7375045, [barrymaher@hotmail.com](mailto:barrymaher@hotmail.com)
- 2013, Boys (U11),** Ciaran Rehill, Hurling & Football, 0868134261, [naf@rehill.info](mailto:naf@rehill.info)
- 2013, Girls (U11),** Eabhnat Ní Fhloinn, Camogie & Football, 087-2449929, [eabhnat@gmail.com](mailto:eabhnat@gmail.com)
- 2014, Boys (U10),** Angela Mc HughPadraic O'Connor, Hurling & Football, 0879871696, 0861003567, [angie.c.mchugh@gmail.com](mailto:angie.c.mchugh@gmail.com), [padraic.oconchuir@gmail.com](mailto:padraic.oconchuir@gmail.com)
- 2014, Girls (U10),** Aileen Murtagh, Camogie & Football, 086-3905241, [murtaghaileen@hotmail.com](mailto:murtaghaileen@hotmail.com)
- 2015, Boys (U9),** Mark Fitzgerald, Football, 087-1959958, [Markyfitzer@gmail.com](mailto:Markyfitzer@gmail.com)
- 2015, Girls (U9),** Luke Bradley, Camogie & Football, 0858583440, [luke.bradley07@googlemail.com](mailto:luke.bradley07@googlemail.com)
- 2016, Boys (U8),** Claire Pettigrew, Football, 087-6836580, [Clairepettigrew8@gmail.com](mailto:Clairepettigrew8@gmail.com)
- 2016, Girls (U8),** Mick Quinn, Camogie & Football, 0863034432, [1michaeljquinn@gmail.com](mailto:1michaeljquinn@gmail.com)



## Section 3 - Playing Games

There are some terms mentors need to be familiar with so they can understand how games are organised.

### Boys Games

- Boys games are organised by the Dublin County Board of the GAA. It is worth becoming familiar with the County Board website [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie) or downloading the hill16 app to your phone.
- Boys' juvenile games are organised into two sections:
- CCC1 - U8-U12 boys football and hurling CCC2 - U13-U16 boys football and hurling
- The different rules and regulations for the games, including Go Games, and league and championship competitions are available on this website - <https://www.dublingaa.ie/juvenile/other-downloads>
- You will also find contact details for other clubs and for referees in this section.

The County Board issues a bulletin at least once a week with updates on games schedules and other relevant information. This is sent onto the Club's Juvenile Secretary (email) who emails it on to mentors.

### Girls Games

Girls games are organised by the Ladies Football Board and by the Camogie Board – two separate organisations. Details of game organisation and regulations are available on [www.dublincamogie.ie](http://www.dublincamogie.ie) and [www.dublinladiesgaelic.ie](http://www.dublinladiesgaelic.ie)

They are organised in following way:

CCC1 - U8-U12 football and camogie & CCC2 - U13-U16 football and camogie

Mentors are required to wear bibs at matches so that the referee can easily identify who is a mentor and who is not. The number of bibbed mentors may vary between age groups and codes - check with the relevant rules before fielding more than four mentors. There are financial penalties imposed by the County Boards for teams that do not comply with this. Any such fine will be deducted from team funds.

Scheduled games are allocated to various Club pitches by these boards. However, given the large number of teams Na Fianna fields each week the Club's Fixtures Coordinator may have to reschedule games when clashes or overlaps occur. Always check the Club's website [www.clgnafianna.ie](http://www.clgnafianna.ie) to confirm which pitch has been allocated to your match. If there are any issues email Fixtures Coordinator [fixtures@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:fixtures@clgnafianna.ie)

Advance fixtures for the year are available on the various websites:



## Purchase of Equipment

Teams must undertake various fundraising activities including Table Quizzes, Cake Sales etc. to buy equipment and gear. Speak to your lead mentor or coordinator about organising a day for your team.

We encourage teams and groups to use the facilities in the club to run a fundraising event once a year.

There may be discounts or special offers available from time to time so check with other mentors and leads through the WhatsApp groups before investing.

## Mobile Goals/ Goal Safety

For younger age groups mobile goals are used to create the correct pitch size for the games. Mobile goals must be stored in the designated areas after use. Mentors are asked not to move the girls' mobile goals up from the back pitch or vice versa.

Mobile Goals must always be secured to the ground. All mentors should have their own sets of pegs or make use of sandbags or heavy rubber weights that may be available. There have been tragic accidents involving the use of the mobile goals so it is critical they are always properly secured.

Slalom poles may be used for younger groups – check rules on county board websites. Slalom poles may be ordered from the hurley shop/repair workshop run by Seosamh Breathnach. There are sets available in some locations but always check in advance before an activity.

## Numbered jerseys

Boys must wear numbered jerseys from Under 13 upwards. Girls must wear numbered jerseys from under 13 upwards. Teams must source and look after their own jerseys.

It may be possible to secure sponsorship for a set of jerseys or to get a set that an older age group has grown out of. If purchasing jerseys buy the largest size possible to ensure they last a few years. If possible also arrange to share jerseys between football and hurling/camogie. Another suggestion is to assign a squad number to each child in the group from No. 2 to say 99. This is their individual squad number and can apply to football or hurling etc. You can collect a jersey from each child, their own jersey, and get the entire set of jerseys numbered relatively cheaply.



It takes a bit of coordination but it is workable. It can be done in a variety of ways - jerseys can be collected and collectively numbered or each family can organise the printing of the number on their own child's jersey.

## Mouth guards

All juvenile players must wear mouth guards for football, without exception. This is a GAA ruling and a Ladies Football ruling. This applies to training and matches, and no mentor should allow a juvenile to train or play without a mouth guard.

From at least 10 years of age up a custom fit mouth guard is advised. They provide better protection and are much more comfortable than the standard boil and bite. Impression sessions are held periodically in the club to facilitate members. Contact your coordinator for details.

## Toilets, Hygiene and First Aid

Many of the Na Fianna playing and training venues have toilet facilities for boys and girls – notable exceptions to this are St. Vincents and Dominicans. Mentors should ensure that a key is available for the other sites and that they are open before the session and locked afterwards if appropriate.

Girls teams should also have access to feminine hygiene products at all venues as part of the teams' kit.

Mentors should also ensure that a First Aid Kit is available at all games and sessions. Mentors can only assist with the most basic injuries – even with First Aid training. The emergency services, parents and guardians must be contacted as soon as possible in the event of an injury and depending on its severity. If an injury occurs during a match please ensure it is recorded in the referee's report.

- All players should be reminded to remove all earrings - bracelets and rings (no jewelry).
- When playing football – mouthguards are essential
- When playing hurling or camogie – helmets are essential

## Defibrillators

Club defibrillators are kept up to date and charged:

**Mobhi road** – outside dressing rooms in wall cabinet – code C1984Z and inside the main club door.

**Collinstown** – in first room on the left at dressing rooms

**RCSI** – in gym area

**St. Vincent's** - inside container

**Johnstown Park** – inside changing rooms



## **Albert College Park – at Eurospar**

### **Referees**

#### **Boys Football and Hurling**

For boys' matches up to U10, the Club provides home referees. These are coordinated by the referee coordinator. For older age groups, referees are appointed by the County Board.

Mentors should contact the referee in advance of the game to confirm their availability. It is critical that the referee is informed if a match venue or time is changed or if a match is cancelled. The Club is liable for referee fees if we fail to inform them of any changes. CCC1 and CCC2 referee details are available on <https://www.dublingaa.ie/competitions/juvenile>

If you wish to appoint a referee for a challenge match contact the referee coordinator. Note, the Club does not reimburse referees fee for challenge matches.

In the case of CCC2 matches, the HOME team must contact the referee to ensure his availability. If a referee is not notified by the HOME team of a call off or change of venue/time then the HOME team as listed for the fixture is liable for the full referee's fee. In the event that a referee fails to show, the away team has the option to referee the game. If they do not wish to exercise this option then the home team **MUST** referee or concede the game. This rule does not apply to Championship games where a neutral referee must be present.

The club juvenile secretary should be copied in an official email to confirm the re-fixture.

#### **Girls Football**

From U13 to U16 all referees are appointed by the county board for scheduled league and championship matches. The home teams are notified of designated referees. It is the home team's responsibility to make contact with the referee early in the week of the scheduled game. If there is a shortage of referees at a given time it may be necessary to change the throw-in time in order to accommodate the referee. Any change in throw-in time should be notified to: the opposition; the referee; the DLGFA Fixtures Coordinator (see the table below). If there is a problem getting a referee contact Michelle Keating (St Annes) 085-7044483.



| Fixture Coordinator assigned to each age group - 2024              |                  |               |              |                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GRADE                                                              | Name             | Club          | Phone        | Email                                                                              |
| U8 to U12                                                          | Niall Kelly      | Thomas Davis  | TBC          | <a href="mailto:smallsidedgamesdlgfa@gmail.com">smallsidedgamesdlgfa@gmail.com</a> |
| U13                                                                | Linda Harbron    | St Annes      | 0876124504   | <a href="mailto:norbrah40@gmail.com">norbrah40@gmail.com</a>                       |
| U14                                                                | Padraig Furlong  | St Sylvesters | 0868103177   | <a href="mailto:fixcoord2004@gmail.com">fixcoord2004@gmail.com</a>                 |
| U15                                                                | Billy Quane      | Erins Isle    | 0861747898   | <a href="mailto:billyquane2@gmail.com">billyquane2@gmail.com</a>                   |
| U16                                                                | Colum Cronin     | Na Fianna     | 0876550422   | <a href="mailto:colum.cronin61@gmail.com">colum.cronin61@gmail.com</a>             |
| U18                                                                | Arthur Webb      | Castleknock   | 0857254316   | <a href="mailto:arfa66@hotmail.com">arfa66@hotmail.com</a>                         |
| Adult                                                              | Stephen Harbron  | St Annes      | 0879455119   | <a href="mailto:stephenharbron@gmail.com">stephenharbron@gmail.com</a>             |
| Referee Assigner per age group (U8 to U12 Home Referee officiates) |                  |               |              |                                                                                    |
| U13 – U18                                                          | Michelle Keating | St Annes      | 085 7044483  | <a href="mailto:miceitinn@gmail.com">miceitinn@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Michelle will also appoint replacement referees to U14 -U18 games  |                  |               |              |                                                                                    |
| Adult                                                              | Stephen Harbron  | St Annes      | 087 945 5119 | <a href="mailto:stephenharbron@gmail.com">stephenharbron@gmail.com</a>             |
| Fixture Officer(s) 2024                                            |                  |               |              |                                                                                    |
| U13 to Adult                                                       | Paul McLoughlin  | Raheny        | 085 8019151  | <a href="mailto:cccdublinlgfa@gmail.com">cccdublinlgfa@gmail.com</a>               |
| U8 to U12                                                          | Niall Kelly      | Thomas Davis  | TBC          | <a href="mailto:smallsidedgamesdlgfa@gmail.com">smallsidedgamesdlgfa@gmail.com</a> |

For a live version of this table please consult - LGFA.ie

The club secretary should be copied in an official email to confirm the re-fixture.

## Juvenile Camogie

Every team's scheduled fixtures come with a designated named referee or a named club who are to provide a referee. Up to U13 a club is usually assigned to provide a referee for all fixtures. From U13 up, named referees are appointed for all championship games. For league games it varies between a named referee and a club assigned to provide the referee.

Home teams must make contact with the designated referee early in week before fixture. Named club:

If there is a problem with named referees contact Dublin County Boards Referee's co-ordinator: Garry Beagan (Lucan Sarsfields), 085-1743646, [dublincamogieref@gmail.com](mailto:dublincamogieref@gmail.com)

Due to a large number of fixtures at times and a shortage of referees, a referee may not be listed on the fixtures system - there may be a requirement for mentors to arrange referees in coordination with Na Fianna's Camogie referee Coordinator - Ann Ryan.

The home team must contact the designated club referees co-ordinator to arrange a referee for the home fixture. There is a full list of each clubs juvenile referee's co-ordinators on the Dublin Camogie Website:

[http://www.dublincamogie.ie/Club\\_Directori/Default.36.html](http://www.dublincamogie.ie/Club_Directori/Default.36.html)



Important: For both Girls Football and Camogie in the event of a cancellation or changed match time. It is the home team's responsibility to notify the referee and the opposition. Failure to do so could mean the home team will have to pay the referee's fee for both teams.

The club secretary should be copied in an official email to confirm the re-fixture.

## Return of Match Results

### Boys Hurling and Football

There is a texting system in place for recording the results of all games at U12 level. Lead Home Mentors receive a text from the County Board at the time of the match which allows them to insert the result from their mobile. These results are then available on [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie).

- U13 onwards - the match referee returns the results. In the event of any difficulties, result should be emailed to [juvresults@dublingaa.ie](mailto:juvresults@dublingaa.ie) before 11am on the Monday after the match.
- Results for U8, U9 and U10, U11 do not need to be returned.

In the event that a match is not played, the reason should be emailed to [juvresults@dublingaa.ie](mailto:juvresults@dublingaa.ie). Details of how the texting systems works are available here <https://www.dublingaa.ie/juvenile/other-downloads>

### Ladies Football and Camogie

- Results for U8, U9 and U10, U11, do not need to be returned.
- U12 Football results are submitted through an app - The results aren't published, but are used for regrading later.
- Results from U13 - U16 are returned to the relevant county board by the match referees.

#### *Camogie*

At the start of each year the Dublin Camogie Board request a contact for all the club's camogie teams. That is, a single contact for each team (one named contact for each team i.e. A, B, C team).

This system starts from U8 right up to and including adult games.

#### *Ladies Football*

At the start of each year the Dublin Football Board request a contact for all the club's football teams. That is, a single contact for each team (one named contact for each team i.e. A, B, C team).

This system starts from U8 right up to and including adult games.



## Away Trips

Away trips are of benefit to juvenile players and are a very enjoyable aspect of their membership of the Club. However, the Club has a duty to Dublin GAA and trips away can never be at the expense of our Dublin obligations.

- Your games coordinator must be consulted in advance of any decision being taken to go on an away trip.
- The trip will be authorised by the club executive through the Juvenile Executive – please send details and plans to [secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie) well in advance.
- The match cannot clash with any official county board fixtures
- Where possible all children on the panel should have the opportunity to go on all away trips.  
Where this is not possible - alternate trips should be arranged to include all children on the panel.

One adult for 8 children U 12 and below - one adult per 10 children for U13 and above. To be included in this ratio the adults must be vetted for GAA activities and have completed safeguarding training for the GAA. Parents are welcome to be included in the party but unless they have completed this process they cannot be included in the ratios.

This is essential for children's safety and also to meet our insurance obligations.

Signed permission slips must be obtained for all children travelling, even if the parent is also travelling.

The following text should be appended to any trip information sheet that you issue. Permission slips and contact details should be retained until the trip is complete.

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to travel on the Na Fianna trip to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian) Contact No. \_\_\_\_\_

In the case of challenge matches and Féile (festivals), Blitz's etc all players should enjoy equal playing time.



## Friendly and Challenge Games / Games outside Dublin (Notification to County Boards)

For Insurance purposes, matches must be authorised through the Juvenile Secretary [secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie) (boys games) or the Club secretary [secretary.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie) (girls games). Do not contact the County Board directly yourself.

In your communication please include the following details.

- Age Group
- Code (Camogie, Hurling or Football)
- Opposition Name and County
- Venue
- Time
- Name of the referee if you have one organised.

For challenge games in camogie and ladies football the club secretary needs to be informed.

Na Fianna normally cannot host friendly games due to pressure on pitches for scheduled games.

## Players Injury Schemes

Details of the various player injury schemes provided by the GAA, Camogie Board and Ladies Football Board are available on <https://clgnafianna.com/club-information/player-injury-scheme/>. These schemes do not seek to compensate for injury but to supplement other Schemes such as Personal Accident or Health Insurance.

If you have medical insurance such as VHI, Aviva Health or Laya Healthcare, a claim must be made with your medical insurance provider in the first instance. The Schemes only provide cover for unrecoverable losses up to the limit specified under each scheme

### Na Fianna Policy on Player Injury:

All registered players are covered by the GAA, Camogie or Ladies Football Player Injury Schemes. CLG Na Fianna is not in a position to cover expenses incurred by players as a result of injury.

Where a player sustains an injury at training or a match which results or is likely to result in medical expenses and a potential claim, they should contact the club immediately via [injuryfund.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:injuryfund.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie), they will then be assisted by a club official. Mentors should ensure that the injury is included in the referee's report.



## Club Policy on Playing Within Age

Na Fianna is not a 'win at all costs club'. We would rather have a large number of happy juvenile players, playing to the best of their ability than a few elite teams.

The issue of "playing up" whether from a lower division team, or from a younger age group, and the matter of players "not getting their game" causes more debate at juvenile level than any other matter.

It is impossible to adjudicate in advance of specific games and circumstances. We have attempted to provide guidelines here, which mentors should adhere to, and which can be openly explained to players and parents.

County Board rules take precedence, and mentors must be familiar with the rules and regulations surrounding playing up. At present boys games do not restrict playing up or playing down, but fair play is expected. Girls' panels are submitted early in the playing year, and the general rule is that if a player plays up within their age group more than a given number of times, they are not permitted to return to their original team.

Mentors make their team selections based on many reasons including; the recent form of players, attendance and punctuality at training sessions, the fitness of a player who may be suffering or recovering from a recent or ongoing injury or illness. Mentors are expected to make their selections with due consideration for every player on their panel, and players and parents are expected to respect these decisions.

The following is the policy ratified by the Executive Committee regarding juvenile players playing within their own age groups:

- Juveniles must play and train with their year group.
- Juveniles may also play, on occasion, on a team one year above the appropriate aged team provided that:
  - ❖ the managers of both age groups have given consent
  - ❖ the parents of the child playing up have given consent
  - ❖ juveniles in the higher age group are not being deprived of sport. This means that we are not playing younger players ahead of appropriately aged players just to be competitive.
- There should be a strict rotation of any players who are playing up - specific players should not be called upon.

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 additional panel consisting of some players from the younger age group



In this scenario where an age group, or a team within an age group, typically a B or C team, 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 group co-ordinator.

The younger team mentors are encouraged to support the older team to ensure that the Club helps retain those older players by having a viable team in place. In this scenario express permission from the relevant Group Coordinator 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 to play up.

There is a specific rule in Girls Football and Camogie that a player can only play at the same level when they play up a year group. e.g. an A player can only play at an A level and a B player can only play at a B level when playing up.

### Playing 2 years out of age

In **really exceptional** circumstances, it may happen that a team cannot secure enough players from the group one year younger and then can consider approaching the group 2 years younger. This is not encouraged and should be considered a last resort. Player welfare should always come before competition considerations and this is especially true in the event the children are being asked to play 2 years out of their own age group. In this scenario the **express permission from the Juvenile Chairperson must be requested in advance of each fixture**.

### Merging Age Groups

In special circumstances the juvenile committee may agree to merge age groups where numbers dictate that greater playing time will be enjoyed if two or more age groups play together. No precedent will be set, and the grouping will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and at the end of that playing year.

### Feile (U15 Championship/ Blitz)

It is normal practice that in advance of the Feile U15 Championship/Blitz that each year group arrange some additional fundraising in order to provide some new gear to the players. This new gear is normally a hoodie per child plus a pair of socks and possibly a T shirt, leggings or bag. Traditionally the Hoodies would have a logo of "Feile YY". It is also a tradition to invite the players and parents to an evening meeting before the Feile to present the Hoodies to the players. It is not necessary to provide the Feile Hoodies to any U14's who are playing up.

### Policy on Playing of Younger Players

In line with the Club Policy on "playing up" it is important that priority is given to playing U15 players in Feile matches and prevent situations where younger age U14 players are played in preference to U15s.



There is no requirement to always have U14 players “playing up” for Feile. In the event that a group/team can not comfortably field a Feile panel from within its own age group then they may consider having U14 players playing up to make up the panel size, but not at the expense of U15 players.

Please note

- Panel sizes to be at discretion of team managers subject to National Feile rules.
- For Boys, the number of underage U14 players on teams to be restricted to 3 for all panels.
- For Girls, the number of underage U14 players on teams to be per National Camogie and Ladies Football guidelines

It is recommended that the playing policy is made known to fellow mentors and parents of teams.

## Guiding Principles

BOYS games principles CCC2 Guiding Principles (to be applied to CCC1 also, where applicable)

The following statement underpins the Na Fianna Juvenile Section Vision and sets the guiding principles for dealing with matters that arise within the U13-U16 boys’ area.

The appointment of a Football and Hurling co-ordinator for each age group to work with Team managers is crucial to the club CCC2 structure to ensure cohesion and communication within age groups and between both codes. The co-ordinator’s role encompasses:

- ensuring the appropriate movement of players between panels
- communicating with parents on the movement of players between panels
- using a system for reviewing the development of all players in the age group
- acting as a sounding board for managers on the development of players
- sourcing and bringing outside expertise to assist managers
- resolving any issues / tensions within the age group with the support of their CCC2 Co-ordinator
- Managing interactions between Hurling and Football

From U13 - U16 Level, ideally the club will support the age group by bringing in additional experienced mentors/players.

Mentors should ensure there is appropriate movement of players between panels so as to reward and motivate players who are improving their skills and to demonstrate that panels are not fixed. This transmits an important message that players represent the Club and not a particular team in their age group. The Football & Hurling co-ordinators play a crucial role here.

Our “A” teams should be comprised of the strongest players within their age group so as to challenge for trophies in their competitions. They should aim to play in Division 1 of the age grouping and code they are in.



The following is a suggested system for dividing players into 4 different grades / categories and then managing the movement of players across 3 panels in a given year.

- “A” players: These are the strongest players in the age group who should not play for B or C teams.
- “A/B” players: This category of player may move between A and B panels.
- “B” players: This category of player are best suited to play on the B team i.e. this best fits their current level
- “B/C” Players: This category of player may move between B and C panels.
- “C” players: This category of players should only play with the C panel until a point where their skills reach a “B/C” standard.

The allocation of players into the above different grades should not be fixed and should recognise that children have different rates of athletic, social, maturity and skill development. It is recommended that such a review is carried out on an ongoing basis.

The above system needs to be applied within the constraints of County Board CCC2 rules around U14, 15 and 16 competitions.

Despite being placed in the lowest Division of the leagues, our C(D) teams can experience regular heavy defeats at that level which can be demoralising for players and ultimately affect the retention of players. To mitigate against this risk, consider blending the lower teams within your age group.

Attendance at training and matches should be monitored. Recognition should be taken of attendance and commitment at training when selecting players for matches.

### Girls U13-16 Guiding Principles (to be applied to Girls U8-12 also, where applicable)

The following statement underpins the Na Fianna Juvenile Section Vision and sets the guiding principles for dealing with matters that arise within the U13-U16 girls’ area.

They follow the specific rules and regulations of the Dublin Ladies Football County Board and the Dublin Camogie County Board.

The appointment of a Ladies Football and Camogie co-ordinator for each age group to work with Team managers is crucial to the club Girls U13-16 structure to ensure cohesion and communication within age groups and between both codes. The co-ordinator’s role encompasses:

- ensuring the appropriate movement of players between panels
- communicating with parents on the movement of players between panels
- using a system for reviewing the development of all players in the age group
- acting as a sounding board for managers on the development of players



- sourcing and bringing outside expertise to assist managers
- resolving any issues / tensions within the age group with the support of their Girls2 Co-ordinator
- managing interactions between Ladies Football and Camogie.

Our “A” teams should be comprised of the strongest players within their age group so as to challenge for trophies in their competitions. They should aim to play in Division 1 of the age grouping and code they are in.

The following is a suggested system for dividing players into 4 different grades / categories and then managing the movement of players across 3 panels in a given year.

- “A” players: These are the strongest players in the age group who should not play for B or C teams.
- “A/B” players: This category of player may move between A and B panels.
- “B” players: This category of player are best suited to play on the B team i.e. this best fits their current level
- “B/C” Players: This category of player may move between B and C panels.
- “C” players: This category of players should only play with the C panel until a point where their skills reach a “B/C” standard.

The club will endeavour to offer support CCC2 teams by introducing current/former players/coaches to supplement the parental coach..

Despite being placed in the lowest Division of the leagues, our C(D) teams can experience regular heavy defeats at that level which can be demoralising for players and ultimately affect the retention of players. To mitigate against this risk, it is recommended that C(D) panels are allocated a sufficient core of B/C (C/D) players to be competitive, albeit that this may weaken the B(C) team.

Attendance at training and matches should be monitored. Recognition should be taken of attendance and commitment at training when selecting players for matches.



## Section 4- Pitches and Facilities

Given the number of teams which the Club fields across football, hurling, camogie and ladies football at juvenile and adult levels and the number of pitches at our disposal, Na Fianna has the lowest pitch to team ratio in Dublin. In many ways this is a great position to be in and we are rightly the envy of many other clubs due to the fantastic number of players at our disposal. However, the heavy demand on our Club pitches is enormous.

### Mobhi Road

Mobhi Road is our main pitch and is the only pitch exclusively under the long-term control of the Club. Priority for this pitch is given to Senior, Minor, Nursery and U8/U9 Go Games. No other teams may use this pitch for matches or training without the express permission of the fixtures coordinator – [fixtures@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:fixtures@clgnafianna.ie). All members are asked to respect the Pitch Closed notices which the facilities group may have to put on the pitch from time to time.

### Collinstown (Old Airport Road)

Collinstown is available to the Club on a short term lease and should be used where possible ahead of the school pitches to avoid wear and tear.

Mobile goals are in the dressing rooms in Collinstown. Keys to the toilets are behind the dressing room door. There are enough posts to make up 3 juvenile pitches.

### Mobhi Road Back Pitch

This pitch belongs to Scoil Chaitriona and the Club's use of this pitch is entirely at the discretion of the School's Board of Management. We use this pitch mainly for girls' matches so the toilet and changing room facilities in the Club house are available.

DCU St. Pat's All weather and adjoining grass pitch.

Na Fianna has access on a very strict timetabled basis to the training and match facilities in DCU St. Patricks College. Teams will be allocated times on the pitch and it is important not to use the facilities outside these times. Parking in St. Pat's is restricted, and it is really important that parents and mentors only park in designated places. **It is also vital that the opposition teams are informed of these restrictions. We are visitors on the campus and should follow all of the instructions of the on-campus security.**



### **St Vincents' School**

This pitch belongs to the School and again the Club's use of this pitch is entirely at the discretion of the School's Board of Management. We use St Vincent's mainly for U11 and U12 boys and some of our girls' teams.

Mobile goals are in the container inside the gate to the playing area. Please do not allow players to clean their boots in the carpark in St. Vincent's. The School uses this area as their playground on school mornings.

### **Dominican School**

The back pitch in Dominicans is available to some of the girls teams for training. Please do not allow players to clean their boots in the carpark in Dominicans.

Na Fianna is very grateful to all the schools and organisations in our area who allow us to use their pitches and remind all mentors to ensure pitches are well looked after, not needlessly damaged by training drills etc and that all rubbish is removed after matches.

### **Dublin City Council pitches Johnstown Park**

Johnstown Park is a local authority pitch and the Club's use of it is entirely at the discretion of Dublin City Council which decides on pitch playability. It is mainly used for U14 and U15 matches.

### **Albert College Park**

Albert college park is a local authority pitch and the Club's use of it is entirely at the discretion of Dublin City Council which decides on pitch playability. It is mainly used for U13 and U14 matches. It is shared with Ballymun Kickhams and is available only on certain days.

### **Pitch Equipment**

Keys of gates and dressing rooms are available from your co-ordinator.

Bring your own flags and cones to venues. Mentors should also bring their own steel pegs for securing mobile posts into the ground. You will need to bring nets to the City Council Pitches. If using nets from Mobhi Road make sure to return them promptly. Never take the nets for the main pitch.



All mobile goals and nets must be stored away securely after matches. They are easily damaged and expensive to replace.

## Na Fianna Facilities Pitch Equipment Update 2024

### Overview

See below for an update on all Na Fianna locations, including the equipment on-site and key contacts. An image of how the equipment should be stored after use is also included. The NAF Facilities Group is responsible for the upkeep of the equipment, repairing damaged equipment, or replacing broken items. The Group is not responsible for ensuring the equipment is stored back in order after use, this is the responsibility of each Mentor Group.

'Leave the Equipment after your match, as you would like to find it when you arrive for your match.'

*Location: Mobhi Road – Main Pitch*

Equipment – PitchSide Cage (Generic Key)

Senior (Blue Bin)

Nets, Flags & Step Ladder

Juvenile (Red Bin)

3 Pitch Set-Ups – 6 Goals (10' X 6'), Nets, Uprights & Goal-Stakes

Pitch Maintenance: Dermot Moran, William Patten, Brendan Fitzgerald & Kieran Brennan

Queries to [facilities@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:facilities@clgnafianna.ie)





*Location: Scoil Chaitriona*

Equipment – Cage inside Scoil Mobhi Gate (Generic Key)

Senior (Yellow Bin)

Nets, Flags & Step Ladder

Juvenile (Orange Bin)

3 Pitch Set-Ups – 6 Goals (10' X 6'), Nets, Uprights & Goal-Stakes Pitch

Maintenance: Tom Ryan & Terry Murphy

Queries to [facilities@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:facilities@clgnafianna.ie)



*Location: St Vincent's Secondary School*

Equipment – Steel Container inside school pitch gate (Generic Key) Senior (Brown Bin)

Nets, Flags & Step Ladder

Juvenile (Black Bin)

3 Pitch Set-Ups – 6 Goals (15' X 7'), Nets, Uprights & Goal Stakes Pitch

Maintenance: Tom Ryan, Darren Corcoran & Declan Fallon

Queries to [facilities@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:facilities@clgnafianna.ie)



*Location: Collinstown*

Equipment - Barna Shed to the left of Dressing Rooms (Generic Key)

### Senior

Nets in Place for 3 pitches

Flags in Shed

### Juvenile (Black Bin)

4 Pitch Set-Ups – 8 Goals (15' X 7'), Nets, Uprights & Goal Stakes in Shed. DO NOT USE FLAGS FOR JUVENILE PITCH LINES, USE CONES.

Juvenile Goals may be left assembled however Nets & Uprights to be removed after use. Juvenile Goals to be returned to storage area beside Training Pitch

Pitch Maintenance: (Noel McKenna, Martin Quilty, Luke Lacey, Finbar Gaffney, Karl Higgins, Padraig O'Fainin & the Thursday morning crew)

Queries to [facilities@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:facilities@clgnafianna.ie)



*Location: St. Patrick's College / DCU*

### Senior

Nets in place

Juvenile (Pitch Equipment Station behind Dug Out close to scoreboard – Generic Key) 4  
Pitch Set-Ups – 8 Goals (10' X 6'), Nets, Uprights & Goal Weights



Pitch Maintenance: DCU Facilities

Queries to [facilities@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:facilities@clgnafianna.ie)



*Location: Alert College Park*

### Senior

Nets & Flags in AC Park Lock-Up – near Tram Café (Key per Group from W. Patten) Pitch

Lining: W. Patten / P. Mahon

Pitch Maintenance: Dublin Corporation

Queries to [facilities@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:facilities@clgnafianna.ie)



*Location: Johnstown Park*

### Senior

Nets, Flags & Step (In locked cage to the side of the dressing rooms between Playground & Pitch – Key per Group from W. Patten)



Pitch Lining: TBC

Pitch Maintenance: Dublin Corporation

Queries to [facilities@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:facilities@clgnafianna.ie)

**\*\*Please note in Johnstown Park, to facilitate both boys & girls matches, we have access to 2 well maintained toilet facilities, in Dressing Room 4 and the Referees Room (if required).**





## Fixtures and Pitch Bookings

All booking and enquiries regarding bookings for matches and training slots must be sent to the fixtures coordinator at: [fixtures@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:fixtures@clgnafianna.ie)

- The fixtures co-ordinator has sole responsibility for pitch allocations and bookings.
- Yearly fixtures for boys are available on [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie) – extras –downloads – juvenile section.
- Girls' fixtures are available on [www.dublincamogie.ie](http://www.dublincamogie.ie) and [www.dublinladiesgaelic.ie](http://www.dublinladiesgaelic.ie).

Please find below some practical points to consider when you have to contact the Fixtures Committee.:

The Na Fianna Fixtures Committee deals on a weekly basis with the Dublin GAA Board which regulates all male football and hurling fixtures, both adult and juvenile. It also deals with the Dublin Camogie Board and the Dublin Ladies Football Board which respectively regulate the scheduling of Camogie and ladies' football fixtures, both adult and juvenile. None of these three boards needs to take into account the priorities of either of the other two boards in scheduling their fixtures.

CLG Na Fianna has a limited number of pitches on which to schedule the matches which are assigned to it by the Dublin GAA Board, the Dublin Camogie Board and the Dublin Ladies' Football Board. Therefore the Fixtures' Committee of Na Fianna has the final say in determining at which venue and at what time matches involving Na Fianna's teams, both adult and juvenile will be played.

The Fixtures' Committee has the full support of the club's Executive Committee in determining the club's fixtures.

The Fixtures' Committee invariably keeps as close to the fixtures issued by the different boards as circumstances permit. However it is not possible to accommodate every match at the venue and throw-in



time stipulated due to clashes. It is therefore imperative that mentors check the club website [www.clgnafianna.ie](http://www.clgnafianna.ie) as this is where the definitive throw-in times and pitch allocations are to be found.

Information about home pitch playability can be found on the web site on the Friday evening of the weekend.

If the opposition's pitch is unplayable we are NOT in a position to facilitate the game on our pitches, it will be refixed by the board at a later date. Na Fianna struggles to host its scheduled home fixtures on a weekly basis so the club does not have the capacity to host cancelled away matches.

When looking to change the time or date of a game mentors should check the web to see that it does not impact on other games already set on the club website.

When making a booking request mentors should check the training schedule and club website to see if there a prior booking before making a request.

Only requests sent to the fixtures email address will be considered: [fixtures@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:fixtures@clgnafianna.ie). No requests by text or phone please.

If the mentors do not get a reply within 48 hours of sending an email to the Fixtures' Committee they should check the web to see if their request is up on the club website. If not please re-send the request.

In the event of a rescheduled or venue changed match - it is essential that the lead mentor stays in close contact with the opposition and the referee and is in a position to confirm this to the County Board.

When all the leagues are back in full swing and with the limited number of pitches available to us, please bear this in mind when looking to play a challenge that our pitches are in use for official games (we cater for almost 400 teams) and team training on the pitches (when evenings lengthen) we recommend you try and arrange the challenges at an away venue.

## Allocation of Playing Pitches

Priority will be given at all times to the maintenance of a top-class playing surface on the main pitch in Mobhi Rd.

All adult teams will be given the opportunity, as far as is practicable, to play at least one home game on the main pitch in Mobhi Rd. each year.

Championship matches will receive priority in the allocation of home venues.

- Priority will be given to teams as follows :
- Senior Camogie/Ladies Football/Senior Football/Senior Hurling
- Minor Camogie/Hurling/Football
- U-21 Camogie/Hurling/Football
- Juvenile Championship matches



- Junior /Camogie/Hurling/Football
- Juvenile League fixtures

The Fixtures Co-ordinator will allocate usage of the pitches according to this priority sequence.

The Pitch Committee will be assigned responsibility for pitch maintenance and will decide as to whether the club's pitches are in playable condition. This decision should be taken as soon as possible but no later than the day before scheduled match activity, except in exceptional circumstances where weather conditions change dramatically. The Pitch Committee will liaise with the Fixtures Co-ordinator.

With the exception of Senior games, only in the event of the Mobhi Road, Johnstown Park and St Vincent's pitches not being available, should it be necessary to hire any outside pitch. No training should take place on the Mobhi Road pitch without express permission.

Scoil Chaitríona, Scoil Mobhí and other local schools will be entitled to apply for the use of Mobhi Rd for midweek school matches, on a fixture by fixture basis.

With the exception of the above, the use of Mobhi Rd for matches not involving Na Fianna shall require the consent of the Executive Committee.

## Training Schedules

General principles used when allocating training slots

Na Fianna has many teams but a limited number of training slots. This makes the assignment of training slots a difficult process so compromise is needed to ensure that each age group gets a slot. Therefore it is important that each age group understands the general principles used when allocating training slots.

The allocation of training slots is coordination with the Juvenile Chairperson and Coordinators.

- Older age groups take priority in the assignment of training slots.
- Training slots are assigned to age groups not individual A, B or C teams but when additional slots are available some slots may be allocated to A,B teams for the older age groups.
- Younger age groups are preferentially allocated earlier slots.
- Groups sharing a slot are expected to alternate between the new and old pitches unless one group is significantly larger than the other. (25 or fewer players should use the old All Weather)

Please check the club website for County Board Fixtures which take precedence over training.

Please maximise the time available for training on the All Weather by using the dressing rooms for changing and storage of gear. Door combinations are available from your co-ordinator.

## Pitch Care Guidelines



- All training should be carried out away from the main goal areas. All four corners and areas around pitch are to be used.
- NO ladders or sprint turns drills are to be carried out on pitches by any team, nursery to senior. All this work should be carried out off the pitch area.
- If there is evidence of these types of drills being carried out, the pitch will be closed to allow time for the pitch to recover. (It can take up to 6 weeks)
- When any pitch is declared unplayable messages will be sent on the relevant WhatsApp groups.
- Consult Na Fianna website for availability of pitches [www.clnafianna.ie](http://www.clnafianna.ie) If pitches are wet, do not train in these areas.
- Leave pitches as you would expect to find them. Take away rubbish, put out barriers, etc.
- When putting up nets do not use tape. String or hooks do not damage posts or cross bars. Tape strips away the paint which encourages rusting.
- If you see anyone abusing the pitch, ask them to stop and explain the importance of having good pitches.

### All Weather Pitch Care

Under no circumstances should metal studs / metal blades be worn on the all weather pitches. Teams are not to warm up on the main pitch before using All Weather pitches.



## Section 5 - Frequently Asked Questions

There are so many issues that arise regarding the playing of our games, we have provided answers below to some Frequently Asked Questions. If there are other questions you think we should include here please email our secretary [bng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:bng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie)

### **I have a son and a daughter playing in the Club but there seems to be different arrangements for organising games for both. Why?**

Not everyone realises this but boys games are organised by the GAA and girls games are organised by two separate bodies – the Ladies Football Board and the Camogie Board. Boys games are coordinated so that football and hurling are played on separate weekends and fixtures do not clash. Ladies Football and Camogie usually play both codes on the same weekend. This is gradually changing with the younger groups, and it is becoming more common to alternate weekends.

### **How are referees organised?**

For boys' matches up to U11, the Club provides home referees. These are coordinated by referee coordinator. For older age groups, referees are appointed by the County Board.

Mentors should contact the referee in advance of the game to confirm their availability. It is critical that the referee is informed if a match venue or time is changed or if a match is canceled. The Club is liable for referee fees if we fail to inform them of any changes. CCC1 and CCC2 referee details are available on [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie) in the downloads section. Referee details are also available on the Ladies Football and Camogie websites.

If you wish to appoint a referee for a challenge match contact Club referee coordinator. Note the Club does not reimburse referees fee for challenge matches.

In the case of CCC2 matches, the HOME team must contact the referee to ensure his availability. If a referee is not notified by the HOME team of a call off or change of venue/time then the HOME team as listed for the fixture is liable for the full referee's fee. In the event that a referee fails to show, the away team has the option to referee the game. If they do not wish to exercise this option then the home team MUST referee or concede the game. This rule does not apply to Championship games where a neutral referee must be present.

### **How do I go about playing a friendly/challenge match?**



The Club encourages teams to play friendly/challenge matches provided they do not clash with official fixtures and that playing facilities are available. Ideally try to arrange to play your challenge match at the other team's home pitch. Na Fianna has a very limited number of pitches and it may not be possible to provide pitches for challenge matches depending on our other fixtures. To source a pitch email Fixtures Coordinator stating the preferred pitch and time and details of the code and teams playing. When you have sourced a pitch also email the relevant coordinator to let them know about the fixture, and request permission from the relevant county board. If you do not have permission, then you do not have player injury scheme cover.

Boys Football and Hurling Contact - [secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie)

Girls Camogie and Football Contact [secretary.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie)

If you wish to provide refreshments after the match email [enquiries@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:enquiries@clgnafianna.ie) to arrange a venue in the Club. Parents must provide the refreshments and make the teas/coffees etc. and clean up afterwards.

### **We want to organise an away trip. How do we go about doing this?**

Away trips usually occur when mentors or parents have contacts in Clubs in other counties. See Club policy on away trips for specific details. Consider the cost options of hiring buses etc. Typically parents car pool for away trips. These trips must be approved by the Juvenile Committee - [secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie](mailto:secretarybng.nafianna.dublin@gaa.ie)

### **If a child is not showing up for training do I still have to play him/her in matches?**

The ethos of Na Fianna is inclusivity for all children. Depending on circumstances some families may not be able to make all training sessions. In general, in younger age groups, any child who shows up for a match should get a reasonable amount of play. As the children get older and teams are streamed it is inevitable that a child who does not attend training will end up on a B or C team. They should still be afforded the opportunity to play when they attend matches although you may choose not to start them.

### **Why can't we play our matches in Mobhi Road?**

Na Fianna has almost 400 teams. It is impossible for everyone to play in Mobhi Rd so we have pitches around our locality which are designated home pitches for different age groups. See Section 4 on pitches and facilities for more details.

Who decides where matches are played and where and when we train.

See section 4



For issues on training times, pitch allocation etc. contact your coordinator

### **How do we know whether training or matches can go ahead if the weather is bad?**

Check the Club website [www.clgnafianna.ie](http://www.clgnafianna.ie) and follow your groups' WhatsApp. The Facilities group keep the conditions of our pitches under constant review. When weather is bad they will review the pitches on a daily basis and advise playability on the website and on the Lead Mentors WhatsApp groups which will be shared with other groups. Dublin City Council decides the playability of our other pitches – Johnstown, Albert College and mentors need to check the Dublin City Council website to see if pitches are playable. This information may also be available on [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie).

### **I see the fixtures set by the County Board on a Monday on [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie) but our fixture time/location is sometimes changed by the Club. Why?**

Na Fianna has a huge number of teams and a limited number of pitches. Sometimes fixtures are set for pitches and at times that clash with other fixtures. For example, fixtures are sometimes set for 10am on a Saturday in Mobhi Rd. This obviously clashes with the nursery so it is necessary to change the time to later. The Club website has the definitive listing of fixtures for each week. Any issues to do with fixtures should be emailed to [fixtures@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:fixtures@clgnafianna.ie). If there is an ongoing issue contact your coordinator.

### **We have players from younger age groups playing with us because they want to be with their friends. Is there a Club policy on this?**

The Club policy is that players play at the appropriate age. We have so many children playing that a child playing up actually deprives other children of game time by increasing the numbers we have to field. This issue arises every year but it is really best dealt with by being firm at U8 level and encouraging younger players to stay with their relevant age group and make friends there. Parents can often be insistent on moving up as they may think their child is too big or skilled for their own age group. Long experience in the Club tells us this is not the case. Once this rule is applied consistently, eventually everyone accepts it. Long-term, it is in the best interests of the child to play at the appropriate age grade.

### **One of the children in our group is constantly messing and disrupting the training session. Can I tell him/her not to bother coming down?**

The Club's policy is that anyone who wants to play and train can. However, there has to be commitment on both sides to make this work. Depending on the age of the child it may be appropriate to talk to them directly or with their parent/guardian to explain how their behaviour is causing issues for mentors and other players. Any discussion should be carried out in a positive way, allowing the player/parent to express any issues or difficulties they are having. If this does not work it may be necessary to refer the matter to the lead mentor of the group or the coordinator to bring about a resolution.



### **Who pays the referee?**

Mentors pay the referee on the day and then claim back from the Club, usually once or twice a year. Claim forms are distributed by coordinators who must also sign off on them before submission to the assistant treasurer. Only fees for official fixtures are covered. Fees for challenge games must be covered by the team.

### **I played in Na Fianna when I was a kid. There were no committees and rules and coordinators then. Why do we need them now?**

We need them because the Club is much bigger now than it was 15 or 20 years ago. There were far fewer girls playing back then and most boys age groups had no more than one team. It is very different now and it takes a huge amount of organisation and goodwill to get all our teams out playing every weekend. That's why we had to develop a juvenile structure in Na Fianna and across the GAA to organise and share the workload so all mentors, parents and players are asked to cooperate with the structure and rules we have in place.

### **I didn't play Gaelic games myself – how can I be a mentor?**

There is so much to do organising our games, particularly at the younger age levels where numbers are highest that everyone can play a useful role. For a start, training in coaching skills is available to all mentors. Our Club Coaching Staff organise coaching courses for all levels during the year. Also, we need mentors to organise teams, send texts, sort out equipment etc so don't rule yourself out. Kids love to have their parents involved with their teams so it is a great opportunity to get new skills and be involved and also to get to know people within the Club. As teams get older we are very fortunate in Na Fianna that former Club players get involved in coaching our juvenile teams. It is a way for them to give something back to the Club. So we have members who would have come through the nursery and juvenile ranks themselves now coaching our teams.

### **I am concerned about the behaviour of another mentor**

This is obviously a tricky issue. If possible discuss your concerns with the lead mentor in your group or another mentor you respect. Following this you may wish to raise the issue directly with the mentor concerned or to bring your concerns to the attention of the relevant coordinator of your group/ code. Contact details are listed earlier in this Handbook.



You also have the option to raise the issue with the Chairman of Juvenile Games. The safety and well being of all children playing our games is paramount. If you are concerned please raise the issue rather than letting things lie.

Any issues to do with child welfare may be referred to our Children's Officer. More serious issues involving potential child abuse must be referred to the Club's Designation Liaison Person.

Contact details are listed earlier in this handbook.

### **We are moving from the nursery to U8. What do we need to focus on?**

Firstly, there is a lot of help and advice available to mentors, both formally and informally as they move through the different sections of the Club. Your first port of call are the Coaching Staff in the Club who will advise you as will the coordinators of CCC1, and Girls1. Talk to the mentors of the year above you and find out what worked and didn't work for them. Set up a structure among mentors for both communication and sharing the workload. Remember to communicate with parents as well. It's all new for everyone so just keep the communication flowing and things will work out.

### **How do we contact parents to let them know when matches and training are on etc.?**

Most age groups use WhatsApp groups in addition to the ClubZap to keep parents up to date on training and matches. It is Club policy to use ClubZap and it can send notifications to parents when games are scheduled, cancelled or changed.

Mentors should never communicate in any direct way with an individual under age player. All group texts/WhatsApp/emails should be sent to parents.

If an underage player obtains a mentors phone number or email address and attempts to make direct contact with the mentor, he / she must instruct the child not to do so and inform their parent/guardian of same.

### **How do we get keys for the store room to get equipment etc?**

All mentors' club membership cards give them access to the equipment room and to open the gates on the all weather pitch. Keeping the equipment room neat and organised is vital to ensuring that everyone can get the equipment they need at the right time. All mentors are asked to ensure that they put equipment back in the relevant place, as all mentors, collectively, are responsible for the tidiness of this room. Lead mentors can get access to keys through the Coordinators or the Juvenile Chairperson.



Please also see the facilities guide above for access to other off-site venues.

### **Who looks after first aid at matches and training?**

Inevitably injuries can occur during matches or training so mentors should ensure they have a first aid kit with them at matches and training or have delegated a parent to bring one. Usually injuries are not too serious and can be dealt with on the field. If the injury seems more serious the child's parent should take over (or whoever has brought them to the match). Make sure the referee makes a note of any serious injuries.

### **Should we bring water bottles to matches?**

Ideally every child should bring their own water to matches. It is unhygienic to be sharing water bottles. The best time to create this habit is when the children are younger. However, given that they will forget from time to time mentors should also have water available, particularly when the weather is hot.

### **We would like to take some photos of our team for the club e- newsletter. Are there club procedures in place?**

Yes. The club has adopted the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport. This policy booklet outlines best practice in relation to all interaction with children (includes all under 18 year olds). In relation to the taking of photographs parents are asked each year upon registration to inform team mentors if they do not want their child included in club photographs. This can now be done through the Foireann System.

It is best practice;

- Not to publish matching names and photographs of children.
- Personal details should never be included.
- If a child is being photographed on their own eg. an award - only include their first name with the photo.

### **Can parents take photographs at matches?**

Parents may at times wish to take photographs, but if any club personnel are unhappy about any matter relating to such photography, the permission granted should be withdrawn immediately.

### **Can we video one of our games?**



### Some guidelines/conditions for filming of matches

- Any Matches involving anyone U18 (including those playing on adult or minor teams) - Permission must be granted from Dublin County Board.
- For any games involving Juveniles (U18) clubs need to request parental/guardian permission.
- Any opposing team would need to be asked and agree to it being recorded, and their mentors would need to get parental permission for their players U18 also.
- An unedited copy of the video must be made available to the CCC1/ CCC2 / Code of behaviour committee/ opposing team on request.
- If playing on public pitches protocol below must also be followed All conditions must be met in order to film any games involving U18s

There are certain protocols to be observed when filming in Public Parks. Each of the councils have different protocols

#### **Fingal Co Co**

Contact the Parks division when playing matches in Public Parks. Filming must not interfere with any members of the public, be of a non-commercial nature and the same permissions as above also need to be adhered to. You can email your intention to film to [annette.oneill@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:annette.oneill@fingalcoco.ie)

#### **Dublin City Council**

There must be no interference with other park visitors, and the purpose for filming must be of a non-commercial nature and the same permissions as above also need to be adhered to. Once permission has been granted by Dublin County Board there is no need to notify Dublin City Council

#### **Has the club a policy on Bullying?**

The club has adopted the GAA Code of Behaviour and Code of Conduct as Club Policy. The club's Childrens' Officers / Designated Liaison Officer should be contacted in relation to any concern regarding bullying behaviour. [childrensofficer@clgnafianna.ie](mailto:childrensofficer@clgnafianna.ie)