



Developing School-Club Links

What is a school-club link?

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

Meet the needs of young girls, to engage and have the opportunity:

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

Why Develop Club/School Link?

1. Personal contact is the best way to promote your club in addition to promotional tools such as posters, flyers and local notices.
2. Some schools especially in Urban areas are not aware of what clubs are in their area.
3. Children get involved in clubs if they and their guardian are aware whom they are dealing with and with a link, club coaches are seen as familiar faces.
4. Informs the girls where opportunities exist to take part in Camogie.
5. Both parties can work together to promote opportunities to participate in Camogie

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

- Promotes healthy living & exercise to young girls.
- Increase in number of girls playing camogie.
- Fantastic social outlet for students.
- Creates a good atmosphere and sense of school pride.
- Can help school to achieve Department of Education Active School Flag.

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

- Creates a partnership with school.
- Creates awareness of the club to a wider community base for increased membership.



- Helps in recruiting volunteers / parents.

What should the CLUB do?

- Provide information and promotional material about the club.
- Run a competition at the school or between local schools in the community.
- Run a club open/fun day at the club for the school.
- Provide coaches to assist with extracurricular activities if possible.
- Run a few coaching sessions on the school site during term time.
- Provide club facilities for sports day or events.

What can the SCHOOL do?

- Promote club – highlighting upcoming events and matches.
- Provide facilities for training sessions.
- Dedicate a notice board to the club.
- Provide letters of support for funding applications.

Club school link liaison officer

Who	Family members of current players. Retirees from Camogie Club. Stay at home mums or dads. Why not ask a parent whose daughter is attending the school?
Role	Build a relationship with the School & Teachers on behalf of the club. Service the school on an on-going basis with information on club. Create a positive attitude among the parents and students towards the club. To organise and control the development of camogie in school. Co-ordinate and consult with members of the club and school. On-going liaison with school's coaches /teachers throughout. Consult school staff regarding sessions, games and blitzes. Actively promote Camogie in the school and acknowledge staff goodwill.

The Need to Knows

- Number of girls attending the school?
- How many girls are currently playing camogie?
- How many are currently playing with clubs?
- Is there any teacher involved in a GAA Club? Or GAA coaching already taking place?
- Is there currently a school team in existence?
- What equipment is available to use?
- Does the club have monies available to promote this / is there a need for funding.



Establishing a Structure

Club itself must take ownership of this link by:

1. Identifying School(s) in the catchment area to the Camogie club.
2. Appoint club-school liaison person to approach school.
3. Recruit reliable and enthusiastic volunteer coaches/helpers.
4. Set rules the club and school will operate under and define roles and responsibilities.

Where to Next

Step 1 - Write a letter and hand deliver to the school principal outlining the youth activities in the Club.

Step 2 - Meet the principal and the PE co-ordinator to outline the clubs work and programmes. Decide in what capacity the school is open to supporting the link (coaching, talks, events, facilities etc and vice versa)

Step 3 - Establish a Club notice board in the school that is updated regularly informing the children of events/training etc.

Step 4 - Commence coaching at preferred time of school and explore the possibility of hosting school games and blitzes at club pitch.

What makes a School/Club Link Effective and Successful?

- Communicate and engage on a regularly bases.
- Respect each other.
- Have a shared vision and approach.
- Agree expectations and goals.
- Find ways of enabling young people to take part in activity.
- Share and develop teaching and coaching expertise.
- Share facilities, equipment and resources.
- Emphasis on fun and participation.
- All treated equally and given a fair chance to learn and develop.

For all new clubs setting up and for information on club/school links, school initiatives etc you can contact our Club and Education Support Coordinator.

The Club and Education Support Coordinator is Liam Clancy : liam.clancy@camogie.ie