



THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION

Intercounty Underage Camogie Development Academies

Policy Document 2021

Policy Statement

The Camogie Association is committed to providing an intercounty pathway for its U/14, U/15 and U/17 players based on fair selection, appropriate technical training for both player and coach, whilst providing an annual programme of developmental games opportunities.

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Introduction

Camogie intercounty underage development refers to a development pathway of coaching and games opportunities for U/14, U/15 and U/17 players. These development competitions are separate to All Ireland and provincially recognised championship competitions for U/16 and U/18 intercounty players.

Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a structured, standardised, and unified approach to the development of the intercounty U/14, U/15 and U/17 academy player. The long-term aim of this structure is the exposure of talented players to a development pathway of appropriate games, high level coaching and a positive learning environment.

Scope

This policy applies to each County Board unit responsible for the appointment of management teams to each U/14, U/15 and U/17 academy squad. Each County Board must be aware of and comply with the provisions of this policy.

Each Provincial Council must be aware and comply with the provision of this policy when organising underage Provincial Games Programme.

All units and members of the Camogie Association are bound by the rules of the Camogie Association, please see rule 3.1 of the Official Guide.

Ard Chomhairle are the supreme governing body of the Camogie Association from congress to congress and their decision is binding for all members and units.

Roles and Responsibilities

Each county executive is responsible for the appointment of suitably qualified persons to the management team of each underage development academy squad.

- A. The Children First Legislation and National Guidance outline ‘the obligations of relevant services to prevent, as far as practicable, deliberate harm or abuse to the children availing of their services. While it is not possible to remove all risk, your organisation should put in place policies and procedures to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent’. (Children First 2017).
- B. All Adults appointed must have a recognised coaching qualification, foundation, level 1 or level 2 coaching awards as well as having Garda vetting/ PSNI clearance and have attended a Child protection in Sport Awareness workshop in accordance with law.

- C. Each county executive must sanction all challenge games and attendance at Blitzes by each underage development academy squad. (Counties must seek permission from Provincial Secretary for organisation of same. Provincial Secretary must forward noticed of sanctioned games to james.heffernan@camogie.ie for record.
- D. A female must be present at all trainings and matches.
- E. All coaches and team mentors must be full members of the Camogie Association as per rule 4.2.1 of the Official Guide and in adherence with rule 23.1 for insurance coverage also.
- F. Membership data figures used annually to decide player eligibility of underage development academies and is amendable each year in line with membership figures across the association subject to the National Coaching and Games Committee approval.
- G. Each underage mentor appointed by each county must complete the attached signed appendix 1 and submit to the Camogie Association by the last date in June 2021. To be sent to louise.conlon@camogie.ie; This document must be signed and submitted by the county secretary.

Breaches

Any county executive or management team member that does not comply with Camogie Association policy on underage intercounty development academy squads will be subject to sanction. The sanction will be at the discretion of the relevant unit. The provincial council are responsible for any games days that take place within their provinces, outside of nationally organised games programme.

Definitions

Development Hub is participation in minimum 4 (max 7) x 1.5hr training sessions held by a county (Development Hub) over 4 (7) weeks. Clubs have a duty to inform all eligible players in their club of the opportunity to attend the Development Hub.

Development Academy squads are picked after Development Hub have taken place and are exclusive for participation and competition basis.

Suitably qualified persons; means at least one member of each management team has a minimum Level 1 Camogie or Hurling Coaching Certificate. If a County has more than 1 Academy Squad, then each Academy Squad must have a person involved with a minimum Level 1 Camogie or Hurling Coaching Certificate. Please refer to mandatory coaching standards (appendix 2)

Policy in relation to U 14 Intercounty development

Player eligibility for underage Development academies - U/14

- A. The policy is designed for U 13 and U 14 Players with the exception of counties with less than 7 registered clubs in the previous year. These counties may select players who are in their last year at U/12.
- B. All Counties are allowed enter 3 Squads only (with a maximum number of 24 per Squad) at the annual All Ireland games programme.
- C. No Squad can be made up exclusively of 13-year olds. Exclusive means not more than 12 players.
- D. A County with only one Squad are allowed a maximum of 26 players.
- E. A County U/14 Development Squad player cannot be part of any U/15 or U/16 Inter County panel, with the exception of counties with less than 7 registered clubs the previous year.
- F. U13 development is for club development only and is the responsibility of each county. There is no intercounty programme of games for solely u13 players.
- G. All counties must adhere to Academy squad mandatory coaching standards (Page 19, Appendix 2)

Development Academy Squads U/14 only

Please note the following.

All units and members of the Camogie Association are bound by the rules of the Camogie Association, please see rule 3.1. The Camogie Association national policy on underage Inter County Development has been ratified by Ard Chomhairle.

All clubs in all Counties are provided with a clear opportunity to send players to participate in their County U/14 programme.

The management in the clubs are contacted and given the responsibility to nominate players from their club.

Counties with more than 1 Squad

- Counties may have less than 24 players on their 2nd or 3rd panel if they so wish, minimum numbers on these panels is 20 players.
- Counties with more than 1 panel must have a full complement of players (24) on their top graded teams and are permitted to have less than 24 on their lowest graded team
- Throughout the year there is flexibility to move girls up and down between Squads. It is only fair to move a girl from C to B or B to A if she improves sufficiently. Girls must be encouraged to excel.
- Counties must name their panels 7 days in advance of each game day they attend and submit panel to organising committee of that game day. Players are graded that grade for the duration of that Game Day only and cannot play at a lower or higher grade on that given Game Day. For example, U/14(A) must name their 24 players & these cannot be part of their U/14(B) or U/14(C) Squad for that Game Day only.
- Counties graded U/14(B) must name their 24 players & these cannot be part of their U/14C Squad for that given Game Day only. Counties graded U/14(C) must name their 24 players
- Counties with more than two Squads at the U/14 national game must nominate a Volunteer for the U/14 National day who is not a coach or manager of one of the teams. (Saturday of the camogie All-Ireland). To assist the Camogie Association, staff on the day at any given venue with the running of the Games day.

U 14 Development Hub

Timeline for Development Hub

Development Hub may begin from Jan 7th annually. But U/14 teams cannot play any Inter County Games or Blitzes until after April 1st annually. All Games must be completed by September 5nd annually. The second Saturday in September annually is All Ireland Final Games day. Venues for 2021 will be selected from locations around the country on Saturday 11th September.

After Development Squads are picked, training is on a weekly basis - **maximum 1 activity a week (training or game)** and must not interfere with club fixtures.

- U/14 Development Squad players must be available to play with their club team up to 24 hrs in advance of any U/14 Inter County Competition.

Development Hub is participation in minimum 4 (max 7) x 1.5hr training sessions held by a County (Development Hub) over 4 (7) weeks. Each club is invited to send players, if clubs feel they have no player to represent them then that is their prerogative. But clubs have a duty to inform all eligible players in their club of the opportunity to attend the Development Hub.

Development Hub Notes

- **The reason these hubs are inclusive is to maximise the number of girls exposed to top quality coaching and also to phase in a player's participation in a county team environment.**
- **Players will participate in 4 (7) training sessions and a games day in their county after which development squads are chosen, they can continue to train weekly for a max of 1 day a week.**
- **The development hub (training sessions) must be led by a coach with a minimum of Award 1 coaching qualification from camogie or GAA.**
- **At least one member of each county's management team must attend intercounty upskilling and information days yearly.**
- **All Counties must adhere to Garda vetting procedures**

Differences between Development Hub & Development Academy Squads

- U/14 Development Academy Squads are picked after Development Hub have taken place and are exclusive for participation and competition basis.
- Inclusive and Exclusive: (inclusive – open; exclusive - selected players).
- U/14 Development Hub Squads to remain inclusive on a training basis and County Development Squads exclusive for participation and competition basis.
- On week 5 (7) a County games day takes place where a County Squad(s) is/are selected. (This is replacing trial games - feedback from our Player Lifestyle Camps suggest “*players feel trial games are an unfair system*”). Counties may determine themselves how this games-based day is run.

Development Hub	Development Academy Squads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation based hence more inclusive. ▪ All clubs are given the opportunity to send players. ▪ Minimum of 4 sessions Max 7 sessions. ▪ 1.5 hours per session. ▪ 4 week structure minimum, 7 weeks maximum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Selected players for purpose of competition, hence more exclusive. ▪ Players selected after Development Hub sessions are complete. ▪ County games day run to select County Development Squad(s) from Development Hub participants.

Eligibility to Participate in Intercounty u 14 Games days and Play Challenge Games

- Due to covid 19 stand alone games days will be organised to replace blitz dates for 2021 only. Counties entering the National U 14 Games programme in 2021 will be graded into a division of 6/7/8 teams and placed in a group of 3/4 teams. Each county will play 2/3 games over 3 designated dates. (Game 1 = June 26/27. Game 2 = 24/25 July. Game 3 = 14/15 Aug) Each team will progress to a final with the corresponding graded team (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) from the other group in their division. Please note some teams may be asked to play a semi final due to uneven numbered groups.
- Counties with only **one squad** can play in 6 Games Days (excluding the provincial Games day and All Ireland finals Games day weekend) and participate in 4 challenge games
- Counties with **two/three squads** are permitted to participate in 5 Games Days (excluding the provincial final Games day and All Ireland Games day) and participate in 4 challenge games
- The Provincial Games day will be organised by the Provincial Council and grading will be decided by the Provincial Council.
- The Camogie Association ask all Provinces to liaise with Ladies Football to work as best as possible to avoid fixture clashes.
- The All-Ireland Games programme will be organised by the National Coaching and Games Development Committee and graded using historic results and geography to be used as a factor to help to determine grading of counties.
- Three substitutions must be made during the first half of all games or before the commencement of the second half. These substitutions must play the remainder of the game unless in the case of having to be replaced due to injury.
- If a county has three U/14 squads then they may enter 3 teams in the All Ireland Games Days and will be graded accordingly.
- Any county wishing to play outside their province in another provincial day. Must seek permission and approval through their Provincial Council, from the hosting Provincial Council.
- For insurance purposes, Counties organising challenge games must inform The Camogie Association of such fixtures along with date, venue, time and referee's name. See rule 23.3 of the Official Guide
- Permission to organise a Games day must be sought from Provincial Secretary in writing, once permission has been granted Counties will be notified in writing that their Games day/ Challenge match has been sanctioned. See rule 23.3 of the Official Guide. Provincial Secretary must forward notice of sanctioned games to james.heffernan@camogie.ie for record.
- Counties organising their own sanctioned Games Day may charge a nominal fee to cover referee costs.
- Only qualified and experienced Camogie referees should be used to officiate at all U/14 Games days.

Policy in relation to U 15 Intercounty development

Player eligibility for underage Development academies - U/15

- A. Counties with more than 150 registered players over 14 and Under 16 (as of Dec 2020) cannot include Players who are on a 2021 Inter County U/16 panel. All such players are ineligible to partake in the 2021 U/15 All Ireland Games. The only exception to this is those counties who participated in the U/16 progress to success Development programme in 2019.
- B. Counties with more than 125 registered players at U/15 (as of Dec 2020) cannot select players who are eligible to or who are playing on the County 2020 U/14 Academy Squad. U/15 meaning in 2021 all girls born in 2006.
- C. All Counties participating in the U/15 Development Academy model cannot select players who are eligible to play U/13 in 2021 camogie club competition (with the exception of any County with less than 7 registered clubs).
- D. A County with less than 125 registered players at U/15 meaning girls born in 2006 in 2021 may select players over 13 (over meaning they are ineligible for U/13 competition in the current playing year which is 2021).
- E. A County with more than 125 registered players at U/15 can only select players in the Final year of U/15 (meaning they are ineligible to play U/14 competition in the current playing year which is 2021).
- F. A County with only one Squad are allowed a maximum of 26 players. More than one Squad are allowed a maximum of 24 players per Squad.
- G. The membership data that counties will be adjudged on will be the figures registered on the Camogie Association membership system in December of the preceding year. For 2021 membership figures (relevant to the age group) will be taken from the December 2020 Camogie Association membership data.
- H. All counties must adhere to Academy squad mandatory coaching standards (Page 19, Appendix 2)

Development Academy Squads U/15 only

Please note the following;

All units and members of the Camogie Association are bound by the rules of the Camogie Association, please see rule 3.1. The Camogie Association national policy on underage Inter County Development has been ratified by Ard Chomhairle.

All clubs in all Counties are provided with a clear opportunity to send players to participate in their County U/15 programme.

The management in the clubs are contacted and given the responsibility to nominate players from their club.

Counties with more than 1 Squad at U 15

- Counties may have less than 24 players on their 2nd or 3rd panel if they so wish, minimum numbers on these panels is 20 players.
- Counties with more than 1 panel must have a full complement of players (24) on their top graded teams and are permitted to have less than 24 on their lowest graded team
- Throughout the year there is flexibility to move girls up and down between Squads. It is only fair to move a girl from C to B or B to A if she improves sufficiently. Girls must be encouraged to excel.
- Counties must name their panels 7 days in advance of each Game they attend and submit panel to organising committee of that Games day. Players are graded that grade for the duration of that Games Day only and cannot play at a lower or higher grade on that given Game Day. For example, U/15(A) must name their 24 players & these cannot be part of their U/15(B) or U/15(C) Squad for that Game Day only.
- Counties graded U/15(B) must name their 24 players & these cannot be part of their U/15C Squad for that given Game Day only.
- Counties with more than two Squads at the U/15 national Games day must nominate a Volunteer for the U/15 National day who is not a coach or manager of one of the teams. To assist the Camogie Association, staff on the day at any given venue with the running of the Games Day.

Eligibility to Participate in Intercounty U 15 Games Days and Play Challenge Games

- Counties can play in 6 Games Days (excluding the provincial final Games day and All Ireland finals Games day) and participate in 4 challenge games
- The Provincial Games day will be organised by the Provincial Council and grading will be decided by the Provincial Council.
- The Camogie Association ask all Provinces to liaise with Ladies Football to work as best as possible to avoid fixture clashes.
- The All-Ireland Games programme will be organised by the National Coaching and Games Development Committee and graded using historic results and geography to be used as a factor to help to determine grading of counties.
- Three substitutions must be made during the first half of all games or before the commencement of the second half. These substitutions must play the remainder of the game unless in the case of having to be replaced due to injury.
- If a county has three U/15 squads then they may enter 3 teams in the All Ireland Games Programme, and will be graded accordingly.
- Any county wishing to play outside their province in another provincial day. Must seek permission and approval through their Provincial Council, from the hosting Provincial Council.
- For insurance purposes, Counties organising challenge games must inform The Camogie Association of such fixtures along with date, venue, time and referee's name. See rule 23.3 of the Official Guide
- Permission to organise a Games day must be sought from Provincial Secretary in writing, once permission has been granted Counties will be notified in writing that their Games day/ Challenge match has been sanctioned. See rule 23.3 of the Official Guide Provincial Secretary must forward noticed of sanctioned games to james.heffernan@camogie for record.
- Counties organising their own sanctioned Games Day may charge a nominal fee to cover referee costs.
- Only qualified and experienced Camogie referees should be used to officiate at all U/15 Blitzes

Policy in relation to U 17 Intercounty development

Policy to be updated:

The format for U17 at national level in recent years was by way of an interprovincial competition. At the time of printing it has been agreed to revisit U17 academy squads at the upcoming Coaching and Games Meeting. The intention is to provide an update to all units on the decision of this meeting once it has taken place.

Intercounty Underage Blitzes

(Please note that this aspect of the policy will not be relevant in 2021 due to Covid 19

Guidelines)

Counties have been continuing to organise excellent Blitzes over the last few years. The Camogie Association supports any County that wishes to organise and hold a Blitz. In order for organising Counties to comply with the Official Guide, The Camogie Association must be notified of such Blitzes for Insurance reasons.

Counties who wish to hold a Blitz for the first time will be provided with a template for organising such a Blitz. Counties who have in the past ran Blitzes and require any assistance or advice from the development team can contact their Regional Development Officer. Counties may organise to host their own U/14 Development Blitz; however, they **must** follow The Camogie Association Policy on the holding of such Blitzes.

For example:

- Consistent rules and organisation
- Timetable and program for Blitz to be issued four days in advance
- Have dedicated organisers available on day of Blitz,
- Adhere to a timetable
- Provide qualified and experienced referee's
- Organise the Blitz in a suitable venue, at least two pitches, facilities/changing rooms.
- Liaison people and phone contact numbers available on the day.
- Definite start and finish times for Blitzes and strict adherence to timetable so that all attending can plan their day.

General Game Day Rules

(Rules may differ for provincial and All Ireland game days)

- No half time team talks “weather permitting” [Ref will throw in the ball once players have switched ends]
- Unlimited substitution, roll on/roll off basis from the halfway line
- Each squad should be guaranteed a minimum of 60 Minutes of playing time with Maximum of 90 minutes. Agreement on time should be between competing counties
- Games to be sufficiently long to allow for meaningful game time for players.
- No player is allowed to play more than 120 mins of camogie on a game’s day
 - Provision to be made to ensure adequate break time in games if playing over the traditional 60 minutes
- Referees, where possible, to explain fouls to players
- Each team may have to play some group games in succession (If small blitz’s are permissible in 2021)
- Schedule will be distributed to all Counties 5 days in advance of Game day
- Schedule will be displayed at the event.
- Teams must wear the allocated jersey number corresponding to the program.
- 3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw. 1 point for a loss.
- No score difference will apply.
- If 2 teams finish on same points, the result of their game shall determine who qualifies. If still tied, the result [NOT score] versus the other highest team shall determine who qualifies.
- If 3 teams finish on equal points, then the team with the best score difference goes through (total scored- total conceded). Against the top 3 teams in the group only.
- If the score difference is the same, the team that scored the most ‘points’ in group games goes through.
- A strict code of conduct must be observed by all players/team/mentors and parents. We will follow the give respect, get respect initiative
- Referees will be encouraged to explain fouls, rule infringements etc to players throughout the day
- Teams must be on the side-line ready to play 10 minutes before the start of the gam

Appendix 1

Declaration that development academy mentors have read policy document

I have read and understand the Underage intercounty policy

<u>U 14 Development academy mentors</u>
County Name: _____
<u>Please sign</u>
Mentor 1: _____
Mentor 2: _____
Mentor 3: _____
Mentor 4: _____
Mentor 5: _____
<u>U 15 Development academy mentors</u>
County Name: _____
<u>Please sign</u>
Mentor 1: _____
Mentor 2: _____
Mentor 3: _____
Mentor 4: _____
Mentor 5: _____
<u>U 17 Development academy mentors</u>
County Name: _____
<u>Please sign</u>
Mentor 1: _____
Mentor 2: _____
Mentor 3: _____
Mentor 4: _____
Mentor 5: _____

Appendix 2

Mandatory Coaching Standards Camogie Academy Squads & Development Hubs

	Garda vetting/ PSNI clearance	Child protection workshop	Foundation Award/ Introduction to Gaelic Games Coaching	Level 1 camogie or Award 1 hurling	Level 2 camogie or Award 2 hurling
U 14	All adults involved with each academy squad or development hub	All adults involved with each academy squad or development hub	All mentors involved with academy squad or development hub	Minimum one member of each management team has a minimum Level 1 Camogie or Hurling Coaching Certificate. It would be desirable for this person to be the head coach	It would be desirable for one member of the management team to be qualified at this level. Counties should identify and encourage one member of the management to be upskilled to this level by their second year with a team coach
U 15	All adults involved with each academy squad or development hub	All adults involved with each academy squad or development hub	All mentors involved with academy squad or development hub	Minimum one member of each management team has a minimum Level 1 Camogie or Hurling Coaching Certificate. It would be desirable for this person to be the head coach	It would be desirable for one member of the management team to be qualified at this level. Counties should identify and encourage one member of the management to be upskilled to this level by their second year with a team coach
U 17	All adults involved with each academy squad or development hub	All adults involved with each academy squad or development hub	All mentors involved with academy squad or development hub	Minimum one member of each management team has a minimum Level 1 Camogie or Hurling Coaching Certificate. It would be desirable for this person to be the head coach	It would be desirable for one member of the management team to be qualified at this level. Counties should identify and encourage one member of the management to be upskilled to this level by their second year with a team coach