



# Owen Roe O'Neill's SAC Leckpatrick



## **OIFIGEACH NA N-ÓG / YOUTH OFFICER**

- The Youth Officer is central to the development of any good Club.
- The Officer should be someone with a good knowledge of the GAA coaching structures and have a clear understanding of Club child protection policy and procedures. The Youth Officer should be an enthusiastic, well organized person who has the capacity to deal with children of all ages, in addition to parents and teachers.
- The Youth Officer is a leader in the Club a strategic thinker who is always aware that he/she is responsible for the future development of the Club.
- The Youth Officer should have the potential to be a future Club Chairperson.
- Ideally, the Youth Officer should have responsibility for all the administration and organisation of all coaching and youth activity for any member less than 18 years of age.

### **The Youth Officer should:**

- Act as a member of the Club Management/Executive Committee.
- Chair the Club Youth Committee and appoint (with Executive Committee Approval) members to the Youth Committee.
- Develop a structured youth development plan with other relevant Club members.
- Appoint appropriately qualified Coaches/Mentors to all youth teams.
- Organise all internal Club blitzes/ Youth Events.
- Co-ordinate the Club Nursery/ Primary School Coaching Programme.
- Liaise with the Club Coaching Officer, where appropriate, to ensure that appropriate coaching programmes are being developed at Club level.
- Liaise with the Child Protection Officer to ensure that all Club members who are involved in youth activities have taken the GAA code of ethics course and are vetted by Access NI/Garda.
- Promote and co-ordinate Scór na nÓg.

The Youth Committee should meet monthly and the Youth Officer should deliver a report of the committee's activities.





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- Act as the Club-School Liaison, linking with the school principals, teachers and governors to ensure that Gaelic Games are being promoted in the local schools and assist where appropriate in Cumann na mBunscoil competitions.
- Ensure that the Club has a dedicated, regularly updated, notice board in each school promoting Club activities and encouraging children to get involved in Gaelic Games.
- Establish and Chair a Parents Forum in the Club, which will meet four times a year. The role of the Forum is to receive feedback and encourage involvement from the parents in Club activities.
- Ensure that the Club is adhering to rules regarding eligibility.
- Represent the Club at meetings of the County Bórd na nÓg if appropriate.
- Ideally, the Youth Officer should work closely with the following Club personnel who should form the Club Youth Committee:
- The Youth Committee should meet monthly and the Youth Officer should deliver a report of the committee's activities to the Club Executive/ Management Committee.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION – Club Youth Officer**

- Develop a proper attitude towards our games by (a) players; and (b) mentors, particularly in relation to punctuality, discipline, dress and language.
- Ensure regular games for the greatest possible number of players.
- Ensure special attention is given to less talented players.
- Ensure promotion of all four G.A.A. games (Hurling, Football, Handball and Rounders).
- Ensure adequate opportunities exist in the club for the preparation for games through practice sessions and fitness drills.
- Encourage ways of improving the skills of club players by the use of (a) Mini Games; (b) Coaching Clinics using club coaches, adult club members, and inter-county players (where practical) and (c) Summer Camps
- Ensure the wearing of Hurling Helmets at all levels in both training and competitive games
- Encourage sportsmanship on the field of play among Youth players
- Co-operation/Liaison:





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- Liaise and co-operate with other local units of the G.A.A. (in particular the County Board na nÓg and Cumann na mBunscoileanna) and the County Board Youth Officer to improve the organisation of local competitions and Youth activities.
- Encourage and ensure involvement and co-operation with local schools and colleges.
- Encourage and ensure involvement and co-operation with other local G.A.A. Clubs.

### **Administration:**

- Ensure matters dealing with youth games and other activities are regularly reviewed and discussed at full club meetings.
- Ensure the involvement of young people in the running of the club by means of special projects

### **Public Relations:**

- Ensure regular publication of Youth activities through club newsletters, local newspapers and local radio.
- Distribute/sell GAA promotional material and literature and ensure such material is available in local schools.
- Maintain a local library of videos covering local club games and inter-county games.

### **Non-Playing Activities:**

- Ensure an adequate level of cultural and social activities is available to GAA Youth members.
- Assist in the promotion of Scór na nÓg within the club.
- Encourage the active participation of GAA Youth members in the carrying out of projects relevant to GAA games and personalities.

### **General:**

- Encourage the involvement of suitable adult workers in the club for the promotion of youth affairs.





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- Arrange training programmes for such workers where necessary using material and personnel as directed by the County Youth Officer.
- Encourage the active participation and involvement of parents in all aspects of Youth affairs in the club.
- Ensure all those in charge of youth teams have adequate Basic First Aid kits. Encourage the attendance of such officials on First Aid courses.
- Encourage visits by local schools to Páirc an Chrócaigh as part of their annual school tour.

### **Behaviour of Juvenile Team Officials**

With a proper Youth Officer structure in place and on-going training and education programme established, personnel entrusted with responsibility for our youth will be better equipped to take on such a responsible role.

Too many clubs within Cumann Lúthchleas Gael depend on local personnel who have little or no training in the handling of young people. Some clubs are fortunate to have the assistance of local teachers, but this is unfortunately becoming all too rare. The Club Youth Officer shall play a key role in ensuring that such personnel avail of the training seminars etc., organised by the Coiste Contae Youth Officer.

### **List of Recommended Guidelines:**

- All Officials/Officers responsible for Youth affairs shall be full members of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and be subject to the same controls .
- All Youth players shall be enrolled as Youth members of the club with their parents consent.
- Team Officials shall be selected by clubs rather than elected. In view of the increasing role of women in the Primary school sector, their appointment as Team officials is to be encouraged.
- Clubs shall submit annually, the names of officials in charge of each youth team to an Runaí of the relevant Board with responsibility for fixtures.
- One of the nominated team officials shall sign the team sheet for each game in which his/her team participates.

Youth members and their parents shall be given as definite a timetable as





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possible outlining the practice sessions and games for each club team. Arrangements for collection of players and a return time to an agreed venue should also be included in the schedule. Parents should also be informed of the names of the Officials in charge of each team.

- Youth team officials shall ensure that less talented players are given a fair chance to improve their skills and are let participate in club games. This can be achieved in the main by fielding a second team in the relevant age group.
- Clubs shall ensure that Officials in charge of youth teams foster and encourage a high level of sportsmanship among all their players.
- Team Officials must encourage respect for Match Officials and this can best be done by their own behaviour towards such Officials.
- During competitive games, Team Officials must operate along the sideline area. Coaching from the end-line is strictly prohibited, as is encroachment onto the playing area.
- Bad, foul or abusive language shall not be tolerated from Team Officials and such Officials shall ensure that Youth in their charge also observe a strict code of practice in this regard.
- Team Officials shall ascertain (in so far as possible) any incidents of medical history of Youth under their care. This would be beneficial in the event of accidents.
- Clubs shall be advised not to use players of 3 years younger than the age grade of any competition, except in exceptional circumstances.

### **Consequences of Improper Behavior.**

Team officials should realise the responsible role they assume with the Youth of the club. Senior Officials of the club must ensure that such officials are aware of their responsibilities and what the consequences must be for improper behaviour. There is a clear need to establish a set of procedures for dealing with incidents of misbehaviour by Team Officials. These could occur as a result of a report from a Match Official, Parent/Guardian, Young Person or another member of the Club. All such incidents need to be fully investigated by the club and assistance should be sought, if necessary, from the Coiste Contae.



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### **Quality of Match Officials.**

There is a growing tendency to use inexperienced referees to take charge of underage games. This is considered a suitable training ground for those beginning a refereeing career. In an ideal situation, experienced officials should be asked to take charge of juvenile games.

### **Dealing with an Injured Player.**

Regretfully, injuries sometimes occur to young players and it is important that each Club have a clear set of guidelines in relation to this important matter. The following is recommended:

- Youth Team Officials should have attended a First Aid course. Such courses are usually arranged by the Coiste Contae. Cumann Lúthchleas Gael has various manuals available dealing with First Aid and clubs should ensure that such material is made available to those in charge of youth teams.
- Each Team Official should ensure that a First Aid kit is available at each game and training session.
- Team Officials should ascertain (in so far as possible) any incidents of medical history of the youth under their care.
- When a player is injured in a game, he should be brought for immediate medical attention to a Doctor or Hospital by a Team Official. The player's parents should be notified as soon as possible, if they were not at the game.
- All clubs should have a stretcher available at their grounds.
- No risks should be taken with a young players injury. If necessary, an injured player should be left on the field and immediate medical help summoned. Every effort should be made to comfort the injured player until the medical attention arrives.
- Where injured players are required to stay in hospital for a period of time, Team Officials should ensure contact with the player and his family as to his well being.
- Team Officials should ensure that injured players are made aware of existing Insurance Schemes within Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and they should assist such players in the submission of their claims.



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### **In brief the Youth Officer**

- Oversees the Club's youth affairs.
- Ensures all youth players are properly registered.
- Maintains necessary records regarding youth players.
- Contributes at County level as appropriate.

