

Dublin Camogie Development Squad Policy

The **purpose** of these guidelines is to provide a structured and standardised approach to the operation of our county Schools of Excellence and Development Squads.

The **aim** of the squad system is to develop the full camogie playing potential of the most talented players in our county so that they will continue to play the game into their adult years and represent their club and county at the highest possible level of activity.

Responsibility for the overall management and direction of Schools of excellence and Development Squads:

The Executive Committee of the Co Board have ultimate responsibility for the management and direction of Development squads. This responsibility will be carried out on their behalf by the Development Officer with the support of the Development Committee.

A sub-committee of the Development Committee will meet approximately six times a year to review and plan squad activities. A report of each meeting will be included in the Development Officer's report to County Executive meetings. This sub-committee will consist of the manager of each squad, the Development Officer and another representative of the Development Committee.

This document provides guidelines for the following:

U12: School of Excellence

U13: School of Excellence and Development Squad

U14: School of Excellence and Development Squad

U15: School of Excellence and Development Squad

The term **School of Excellence** describes a series of pre/early season coaching sessions for players nominated by their clubs. This provides a large number of girls with extra quality coaching and assists in the identification of players for development squad activity.

The term **Development Squad** describes a panel of players selected by squad management to participate in a year-long programme of coaching sessions, blitzes, matches and other player development activities.

Development Squad Size:

U13: 75 players (3 squads x 25)

U14: 66 players (3 squads x 22)

U15: 50 players (2 squads x 25)

Each overall squad will be sub-divided into 2/3 groups according to the requirements of the training session/match/blitz. This means that at different stages of the season they may be divided according to a) ability b) club geography c) playing positions d) mixed ability or e) any other criteria appropriate to the activity.

No squad will be divided according to ability for the whole season.

U12 School of Excellence: The U12 School of Excellence will cater for a maximum of 120 players. Clubs will in general be invited to nominate 2-4 players based on team registration and grading.

Development Squad selection:

U12 School of Excellence: Clubs will be invited to nominate 2-4 players to participate in the coaching programme

U13 School of Excellence: Clubs will again be invited to nominate 2-4 players to participate in the coaching programme

U14 School of Excellence: Players from the previous year's U13 squad who have demonstrated the necessary application will be recalled along with other players club identified as being of the necessary standard for consideration at inter-county level.

U15 School of Excellence: Players from the previous year's U14 squad who have demonstrated the necessary application will be recalled along with other players identified as being of the necessary standard for consideration at inter-county level.

At each level the squad management will select, after the School of Excellence, a panel of players for the year's activity. The panels will be selected by March 1 each year.

Then:

- a) The Minor Board Secretary will provide all club secretaries with a copy of the panels
- b) The players' parents will be notified of their selection or otherwise by squad managers
- c) The panels for the year will be posted on the County Board website.

Yearly schedules:

	Jan/Feb	March - May	June- August	Sept-Dec	<i><u>Total no of activities</u></i>
U12		Nomination of players for coaching	6-8 coaching sessions culminating in a blitz day	1 blitz day around October school mid-term	<i><u>Min: 7</u></i> <i><u>Max: 9</u></i>
U13	School of Excellence: 4-6 coaching sessions preferably on all-weather pitches <i><u>plus one match</u></i>	Development Squad: 1-2 coaching sessions in advance of each of maximum 2 blitzes in this period	Development Squad: Weekly coaching sessions when regular club activities cease for summer break. 3 blitzes 3-4 matches	Development Squad: 2-4 coaching sessions when regular club programme is completed. This activity to be completed by December 8.	<i><u>Min: 24</u></i> <i><u>Max: 30</u></i>
U14	School of Excellence: 4-6 coaching sessions preferably on all-weather pitches <i><u>plus one match</u></i>	Development Squad: 1-2 coaching sessions in advance of each of maximum 2 blitzes in this period	Development Squad: Weekly coaching sessions when regular club activities cease for summer break. 3 blitzes 3-4 matches	Development Squad: Participation in National Camogie blitz. 2-4 coaching sessions when regular club programme is completed. This activity to be completed by December 8.	<i><u>Min: 24</u></i> <i><u>Max: 30</u></i>
U15	School of Excellence:	Development Squad:	Development Squad: Weekly coaching sessions	Development Squad:	<i><u>Min: 23</u></i> <i><u>Max: 27</u></i>

	4-6 coaching sessions preferably on all-weather pitches <u>plus one match</u>		when regular club activities cease for summer break. 3 blitzes 3-4 games	2-4 coaching sessions when regular club programme is completed. Development Squad activity completed by December 8. Activity for this age group now transfers to U16 county squad.	
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Each squad management team (U13-15) will draw up a schedule for

- a) School of Excellence by January 10 each year and
- b) Development Squad activity by March 1 each year.

These schedules will provide an outline of when training/games/blitzes will take place (e.g. weekly in June or twice weekly in July). The schedule will be made available to the Development Officer/Development Committee and Co Board Executive and will be posted on the County Board website.

Programme of activity:

A programme of activity for each age-group will be developed in conjunction with Cumann Camógaíochta Player Pathway document (Skills, tactical competencies, physical development etc.)

Squad principles:

- Each girl will be provided with quality coaching and player development activity
- Each girl will be given equal opportunity to participate in blitzes/games
- Each girl will be supported as a developing player and provided with advice and support accordingly

Expectations of Players:

Players will be expected to:

- Attend training/blitzes on a regular basis with due acknowledgement that they will have club commitments and may have holidays/Gaeltacht visits, etc.
- Participate in all activity to the best of their ability
- Respect all personnel involved in squad activity
- Represent the themselves, their clubs and the county on and off the field in an appropriate manner
- Adhere to the Code of Best Practice as outlined in Our Games/Our Code

Notification of plans to parents/clubs:

Squad management will:

- Provide each Development squad player/parents-guardians and their club secretary with an outline programme of activity for the year by March 31
- Notify parents-guardians by text message of upcoming activities
- If possible, notify club managers of upcoming activities when different from website details
- Notify parents and club manager when a player's involvement with a panel is ceasing
- Endeavour to provide some basic advice as to the aspects of performance a player would need to work on to be reconsidered for inclusion.

Selection of squad management and coaches:

The Development Committee will

- a) in November each year recommend a management team for each squad (U13-15) to the County Board executive for ratification
- and b) by April 30 each year recommend a management team for U12 School of excellence to the County Board executive for ratification.

These teams will consist of a manager, 2 coaches and possibly an administrative secretary. This team will include at least one female. The manager will then work in consultation with the development officer to ensure an adequate number of qualified coaches will be available for all sessions.

Squad managers and coaches will

- Have Level 1 coaching qualifications in either hurling or camogie or will acquire those qualifications at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Adhere to the Code of Best Practice as laid out in Our Games/Our Code

Development Squad Support Coaches:

A pool of support coaches will be drawn up by the Development Officer and squad managers will be able to engage these coaches for individual sessions or a series of sessions.

Coach Development: Workshops and other coaching development opportunities will be provided by the county board for squad coaching personnel.

Finance:

The County Board through its treasurer is responsible for the funding of Development Squads. The treasurer, in consultation with the chairperson, the Development Officer and the squad managers, will agree a budget for each squad for the year.

Each squad manager will in January, outline their financial needs for the year. This will include training and playing equipment and repair, first aid needs, transport and food. Any expenditure above and beyond that initially agreed will first be passed by the Development Officer and Treasurer.

Fund-raising:

Plans for fund-raising initiatives or acquisition of sponsorship by squad management, including the planned use of such funds, will be presented by the Development Officer to the Executive for approval. Records of funds raised and receipts for purchases will be provided to the treasurer for inclusion in the Annual accounts.

Playing gear

The county board will provide jerseys for all inter-county match and blitz activity. Dublin skorts and socks will be made available for purchase by squad members. Squad management members will be provided with a jacket/top identifying them as representatives of the Dublin Camogie Board.

The following will be provided to the squad members:

U12 – Hoodie/training jacket

U14 – Hoodie/training jacket

The Treasurer and Development Officer will agree, at the beginning of each year, with squad managements procedures for ordering equipment, transport, food and playing gear.