



O'Dwyers GAA Club

Player Policy

This policy has been drafted to ensure players are playing on the correct teams, that mentors are aware of what team a player should be on and to ensure that we have teams across as many age groups as possible, therefore ensuring the sustainability of each team. Please remember, as Mentors, Parents and Officers we are here for the betterment of all teams and the Club as a whole.

Created By	Paul Finn
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Revised by	C&G Committee
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Applies to all codes

1. A Player's loyalty will be to their age group first. A player can play for any age group above their own as long as it does not interfere with them representing the club at their own age group. If a player is being asked to play for another team the coach of their age group must be informed first. This is merely out of courtesy. The coach of the requesting team will then contact the child's parents to get permission.
2. If the club does not field or is unable to field at a particular age group then the next available age group will be deemed their age group.
Example: a player who is 13 years old on or before the 31st December 2023 is an u13 player. If the club cannot or does not field at u13 level and has an u14 team then the player will be deemed an u14 player for that season. In the following season the player will still be an u14 player and must represent the u14 team before playing at any other age group.
3. The Skills Camp will accommodate age group 4 – 7 inclusive. i.e. you must be no older than 7 years old on or before the 31st December of that year and no younger than 4 before the 1st of January of that year.
4. The u7 development team is an initiative introduced in 2014 and is a vital stepping stone in the development of future Go Games teams. The u7 development team will consist of the players eligible from the nursery. This will be defined as being over 6 years of age on the 1st January but under 7 years of age on the 31st December of that year.
 - **If a player under 6 years of age on the 1st of January plays with the u7s they will have stay at u7 the following year. They are still free to play with the u8s as in rule 1 above.**
5. Eligibility for the u8 Go Games team will be defined as follows. An u8 player is defined as being no older than 8 years old on or before the 31st December of that year and no younger than 7 years old on or before the 31st December of the previous year.
 - **Players under 7 years of age can play at u8 level subject to rule 1 above.**
6. Dual players must represent the code of their age group (rule 2 above) that is the main fixture of that week before playing another code.
Example: If the u13 footballers are fixed for a match on a football week and there is also an u13 hurling/camogie fixture for that week, then the player must represent the club on the u13 football team first.
7. Hurling/Camogie & Football weeks are usually defined as having league or championship fixtures.

8. Any issues that may arise, for whatever reason, will be looked into by the Coaching & Games Committee and the Children's officers if necessary, before being passed on to the Executive.
9. We will need to have a very high level of co-operation between mentors. Ultimately we have to remember that we are there to help the children develop and our role is to provide them with every opportunity to do so. Personal agendas or desires to win medals at juvenile levels cannot get in the way of real progress which is to develop every child under our care. There will be times when it may be difficult throughout the year. The best way to deal with issues is to be upfront and honest. We have to get away from being negative. Obstacles are there to be overcome. The only way to do this is through open communication.

Applies to GAA codes only

- The maximum age group the Club would like to see a player play above their own is two years. **This may not be possible in all circumstances and the club will abide by the current GAA rules on the matter (Rule 6.11 of the Official Guide P1).**

Applies to LGFA & Camogie only

- When playing on more than one team the girls own age group is first priority, if there is a clash between the two teams. However a competitive fixture (i.e. cup, league or championship arranged by the county board) will take precedence over a challenge game and/or a training session at her own age group.
- The aim of our first team in the club is to build on the current success and to progress to the highest attainable level. This is to ensure that we will be able to provide a platform for the ladies in the club to excel and strive to play for the county. **This means that the best players in the club will play on the first team.** This decision is made by the first team manager. **For that reason the First team manager will have second call on players after their own age group.** The first team manager will have to abide by the LGFA/Camogie ruling (**Rule 273 of LGFA Official Guide & Rule 28.4 of Camogie Association Official Guide**) as well as following the protocol outlined above.
- **If a player from a younger team is also on the first team she should train one night with her own age group and one night with the ladies team.** This is to help with integration and to ensure that the player is prepared to the best of her ability in respect of implementing game plans and styles of play. The specific days can be agreed in advance. This is only in the case of the first team. **Example: Player A is on the U16 team and also on the ladies panel. Both teams are training two nights a week. Player A will train Tuesday with the U16s and Thursday with the Adult Ladies if required.**
- In light of the extra demands being placed on young players today the club has made the following decision. A girl will be allowed to play for more than 2 teams in the club. **However, No girl will be asked or allowed to play more than 2 games (120 minutes) in a week for O'Dwyers.** This is for her own protection and in light of best practice. **In order to be clear on this: if a girl is requested to play U15 on Saturday and U16 on Sunday she will not be available to the U18 team on the Monday. If a girl plays for the U15s on Saturday and then plays for the Ladies midweek she will not be able to play U16 or U18 on that same week.**