



## **Ballyboughal GFC Club Policy on Juvenile Players 'Playing Up'**

At times it may be necessary, or requested by a mentor/coach, to supplement a team with a player from a younger team ('playing up'); e.g. an under-10 player plays with an under-11 team for games. While it may be necessary, such 'playing up' can demotivate weaker players to the point where they will eventually give up playing if, for example a player who is 'on the age' is continuously displaced by players from a younger team. Similarly, a younger team can be weakened by the loss of players to an older team. This policy is intended to be clear, consistent and fair and designed to foster both weak and strong players ensuring optimal participation at all ages.

The Club policy discourages 'playing up', but allows it

- (a) Where players are needed to make up a team for games only.
- (b) Where 'Playing up' does not deprive players who are 'on the age' of playing in games.
- (c) Where the parents and coaches of the players concerned agree on the 'playing up' situation.

The Club policy on 'playing up' is outlined below

- Players must be selected from the team directly below in age.
- If there are no available players from the team below, then players can be requested from teams up to two years below.
- In team selection, preference should be given to players who are 'on the age' - i.e. those who will be 'over-age' next year. If substitutes are available, then players who are 'on the age' should start and play at least half the game.
- If a player is selected to play up he must continue to train and play with his own age-group.
- When a team needs a player to play up, the coaches concerned must agree on the 'playing up' situation and communicate this to the parents involved.
- It is preferable to rotate the chance to 'play up' among players from the younger team.
- Players selected to play up should be capable of competing at the higher age group.

Coaches may deviate from this policy only in cases where there is good reason not to select a player, other than the player's ability (e.g. indiscipline or poor attendance at training). In such cases, the player should be informed why he is not being selected.

In situations where inter Club games are not involved, for example where player groups are being segregated in nursery or academy football, all players will train in their designated age groups. Groups will be determined by the child's year of birth and is independent of which class they attend in school.

Only the Juvenile Committee of the Club may sanction exceptions to this policy. Their decision will be final.

Exceptions to the policy must be documented by the Committee and agreed with coaches and parents of the players concerned. In cases where exceptions are sought, a standard form

(Enclosure for 'playing up') must be completed. This form will confirm the exception, and at which point the exceptional case will start and cease.

This policy is aimed at player welfare, skills development, encouraging participation and improving player retention and is based on best practice currently being implemented within the GAA, LGFA & Camogie Associations.

It is unfair and counter-productive in terms of player retention, if young players are side-lined while even younger players (who have their own age group to play in) regularly take their place.

The national GAA policies emphasis, particularly at the youngest age groups, has now moved firmly towards participation, enjoyment and skills development for age groups up to Under 12, and the Club policy of playing in your age group is aligned with this ambition.

Players must have primary allegiance to and play first in their own age group.

Signed on Behalf of the Juvenile Committee

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Ian McGill

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John Cahill

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Date

Information Classification: General

**Enclosure for 'playing up'**

Name of Player		
Name of Parent		
Date of Birth of Player		
Current team 'at age'		
Proposed team for 'playing up'		
Current team 'at age'		
Proposed team for 'playing up'		
Name of Coaches:		
Reason for request for playing up		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
Start date of Playing Up		
Completion date of Playing Up		
Approvals:		
_____	_____	_____
Parent	Coach	Juvenile Committee Chairperson