



*Gaelic Games Club Coaching  
Community of Practice...a  
peer facilitated approach*

**WELCOME**

*Coach Developer  
CCCoP Upskilling  
Session 1*

*20-1-2025*

# Setting the scene

# Why are we here?



## Aligning with Gaelic Games Coach Education Pathway, we aim to...

- Provide good coach education support for coaches and clubs
- Supply practical and useable resources
- Provide self-paced and self-directed learning and at their own pace

*Hence...*

- Club Coaching Community of Practice (CCCoP)



# Coming from two perspectives

## My Research

Exploration of the value gained by participating in a peer facilitated community of practice in a voluntary sport setting.

## My Experience

- Coaching Officer in my Club / Coach / Parent
- Role as Head of Coach Development in LGFA

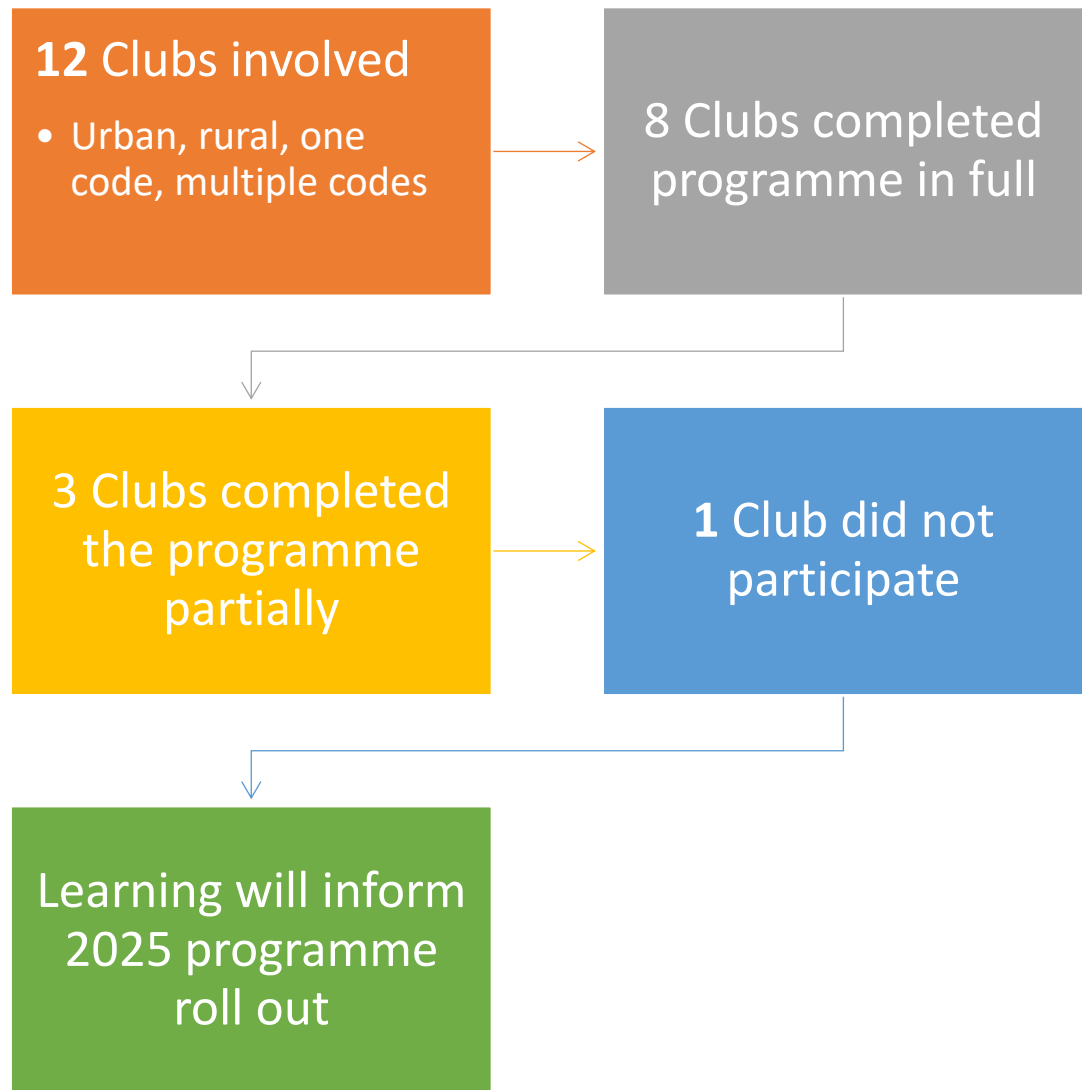
# What are we trying to achieve via CCCoP

Clubs to take more  
ownership of  
development of  
their coaches

CD's to help  
facilitate this!

Early support and Guidance  
Less 'hands on' involvement  
Continue when we finish

# What did 2024 'Pilot' look like

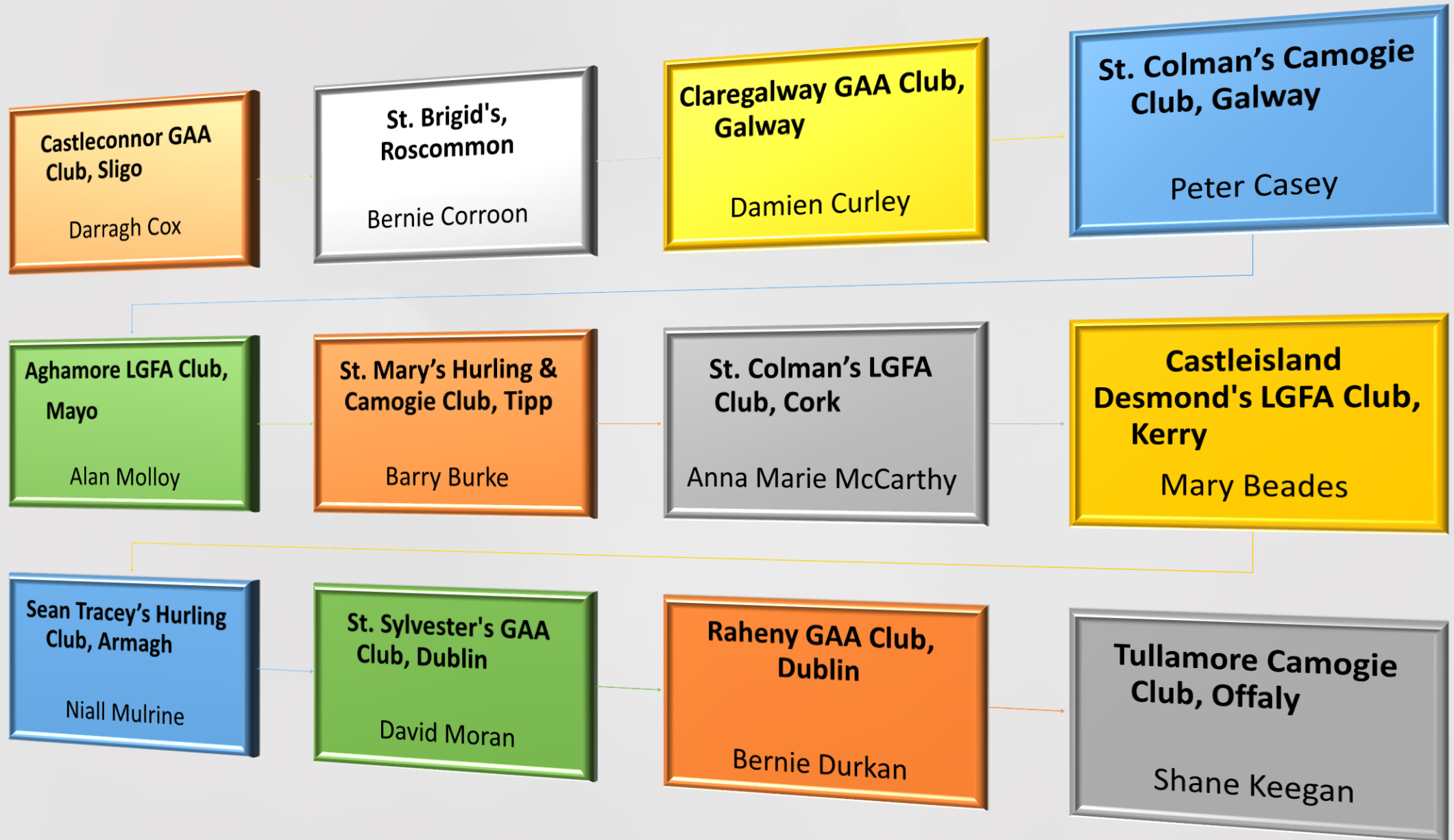


# How were the 2025 clubs selected...

- Open application process
- Attended club online information session
- Selected based on set criteria to observe level of readiness



# Who are the 2025 CCCoP Clubs



# Other CD's involved in the 2024 CCCoP

Janey  
McCauley

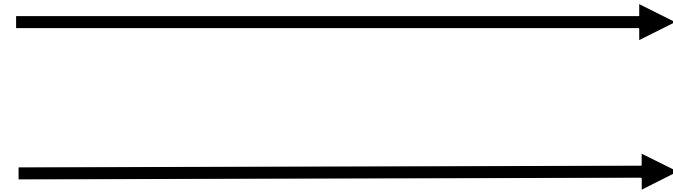
Gearoid  
Balfry

Jim Ryan

Garreth  
Thornton

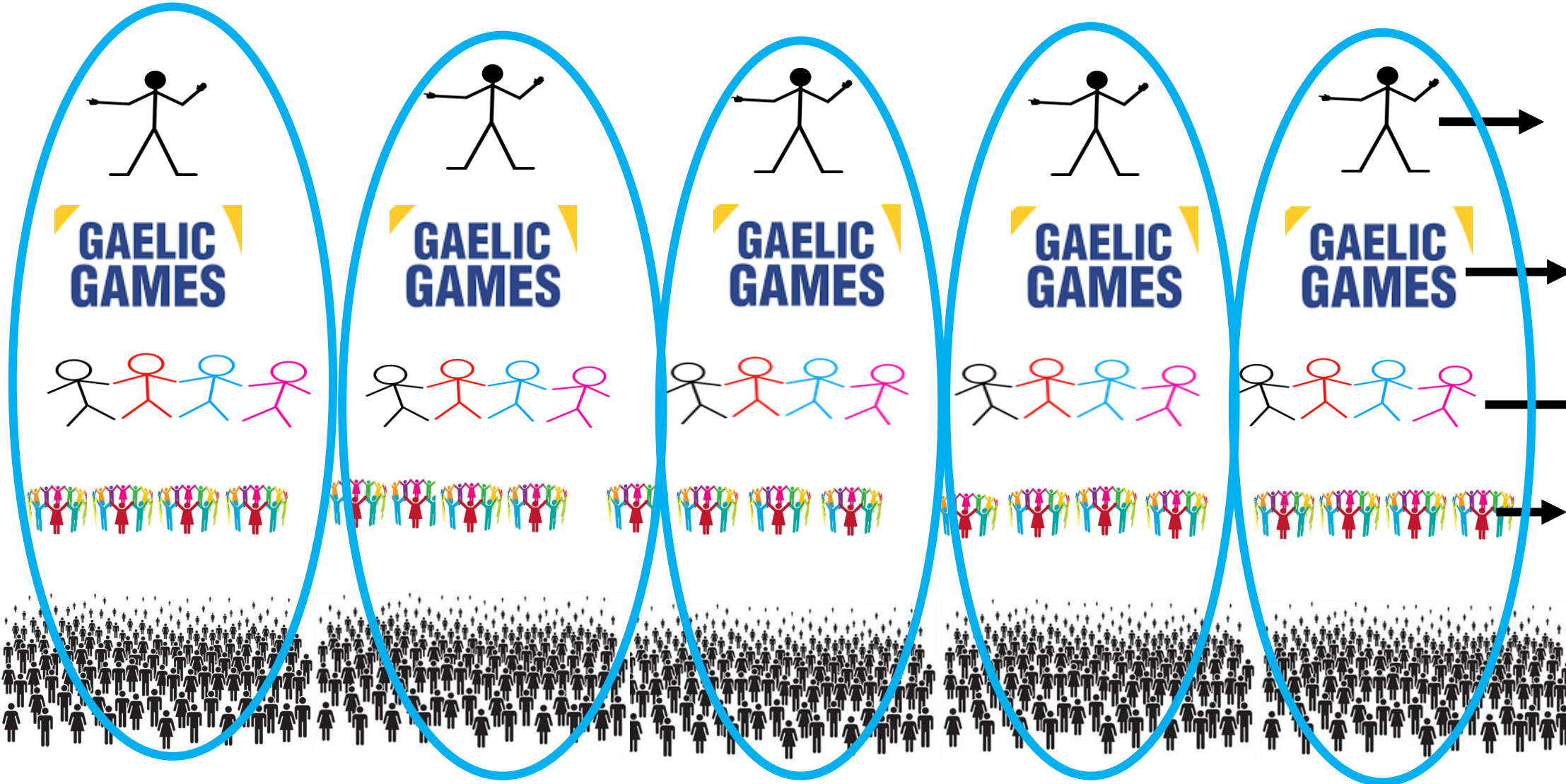
Irene  
Hogan

# CCCoP Impact



12 GG Clubs

1 CDA



12 GG  
CDs



12 GG Clubs



3/4 Coach  
Leaders  
per club



5 coaches per  
CoP per club  
200 Coaches



Impact 4000  
Players

# What is a Community of Practice?

“Groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis”  
(Wenger, McDermott and Snyder, 2002, p. 4)

In **coaching terms**, a coaches’ community of practice (CCoP) is a way to support coach learning through collaboration  
(Culver and Trudel, 2006)

  
WHERE WE ALL BELONG

  
PEIL na mBAN

  
THE CAMOGIE  
ASSOCIATION  
An Cumann Camógachta

# Value of a Coaches CoP from 2024 CCCoP Cohort

## COACH DEVELOPERS

Opportunity to share benefits of CoP Concept

Took me out of my comfort zone

*Enjoyed being involved and observing the problem solving process*

## COACH LEADERS

*Meeting and learning from coaches of other age groups/codes and sharing of ideas*

*Meaningful coaching conversations*

*Provided a more joined up approach*

## COACHES

*Club giving time to think and discuss how can we improve!*



# Value of a Coaches CoP from 2024 CCCoP Cohort

**COACH  
LEADERS**

**COACHES**

- *Gave voice to 'shyer' or less talkative coaches*
  - *'Space' to speak*
- *'Woke us up' – What not working*
  - *Help build a community*
  - *Got 'doing' v 'talking'*
  - *Not that taxing*



In essence...

It is where coaches...

- Take more ownership of their own learning and are involved in a structured social framework of co-participation
- Work closely together with a 'sense of a mission'- There is something people want to accomplish or do together that arise their shared understanding.
- Have regular interaction and better conversations to assist coaches to find solutions to everyday coaching issues relevant to their needs and context that in turn deepen their knowledge and potentially changing their practice.

  
WHERE WE ALL BELONG

  
PEIL na mBAN

  
THE CAMOGIE  
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An Cumann Camógachta

# What is needed to set up a CCCoP?

- Club Level of Readiness – *Application Process*
- Coaches across all codes who are interested in trying something new
- Suitable Coach Leaders (a peer coach)
- Multiple Coach Leaders in a club setting
- Provision of Training for the Coach Leader
- Ongoing Support

**GAA**  
WHERE WE ALL BELONG

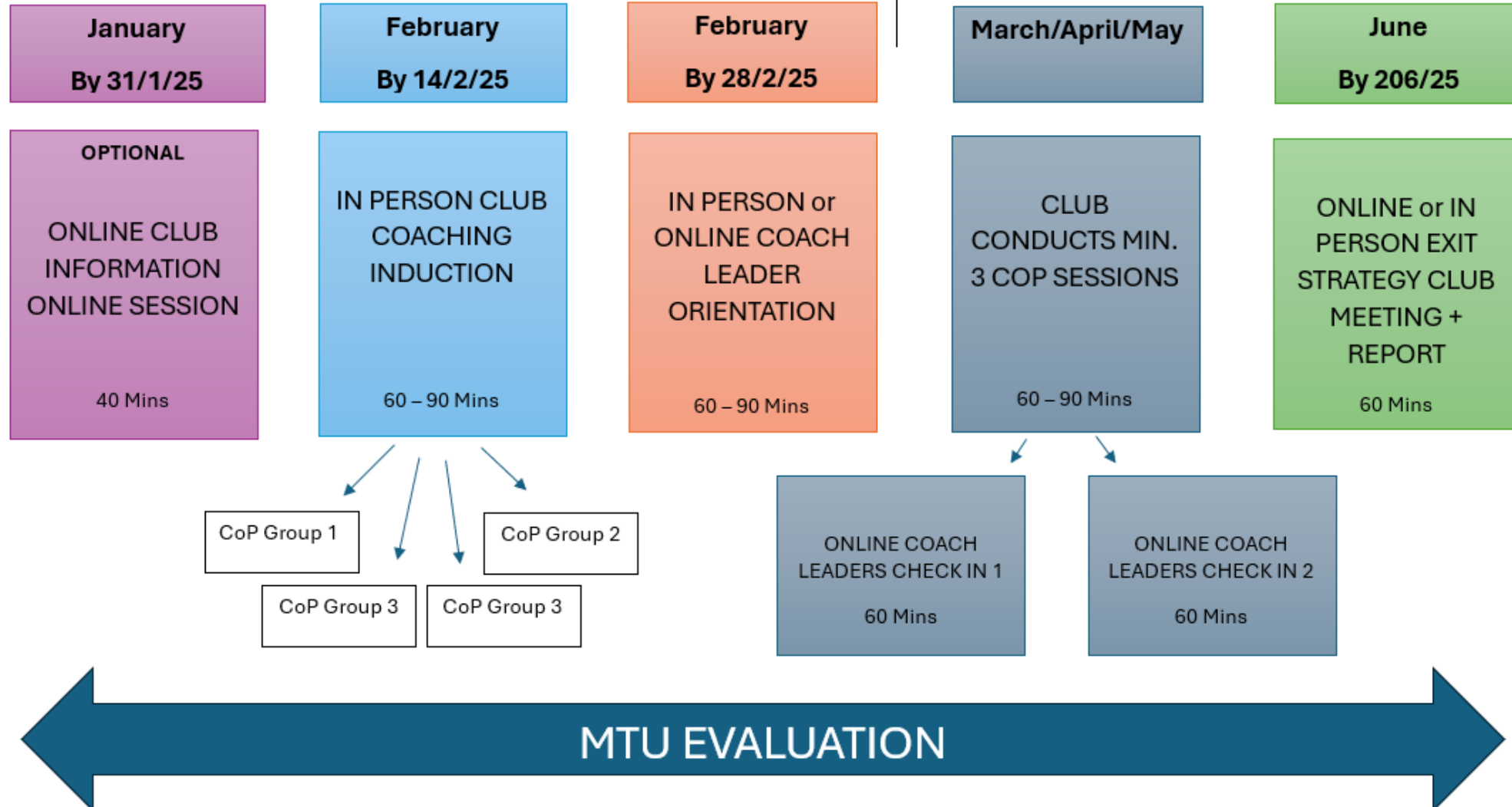
**LGFA**  
PEIL na mBAN

**THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION**  
An Cumann Camógachta

# Coach Developer Expectations

- Attend 2 online upskilling sessions
  - Club Induction
  - Coach Leader Orientation
- Conduct 1 online Club Information Session (**Optional**)
- Conduct 1 in person Club Coaches Induction
- Conduct 1 online or in person Coach Leader Orientation
- Conduct online Coach Leader Check In's (max. 2)
- Conduct 1 in person or online Exit Strategy Meeting with Club
- Assist with conducting a review of the Pilot

# Overview of GG CCCoP Programme



# Coach Developer Payments

- Online Club Coaches Information Session with Club (optional)
  - €70
- In person Club Coaches Induction with Club
  - €105 + Travel .60 cent per mile
- In person or online Coach Leader orientation
  - In person - €105 + Travel .60 cent per mile
  - Online - €105
- Online Check ins with Coach Leaders (Max. 2)
  - €70
- In person or Online Club Exit Strategy Meeting + Report
  - In person - €70 + Travel .60 cent per mile
  - Online - €70
- Submit expenses at end of each Month

# Coach Developer Resources

- CD upskilling presentations
- How to conduct a GG CCCoP Induction CD Resource
- How to conduct a GG CCCoP Coach Leader Orientation CD Resource
- Resource for Coach Leaders post orientation

***All resources are available on Coach  
Developer TOBAR Account***

# Upskilling Part 1

# GG CCCoP Club Induction Session

· *(See supporting Document)*

# Club Induction Session Structure

- Introductions
- CD outlines their role
- CD provides an overview of CCCoP (What it is + benefits)
- Identify CCCoP Groups (min 3/max 5 in a group)
- Identify Coach Leaders (2 per group)
- **Identify Topics to avoid duplication???**
- Agree a communication plan
- CD provides on overview of what the structure of a CCCoP looks like
- CD goes through rules of engagement
- CD confirms date with coach leaders for orientation

**Delivery style - Presentation or Flipchart**

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## Gaelic Games Community of Practice

### CLUB INDUCTION

(CD Resource)



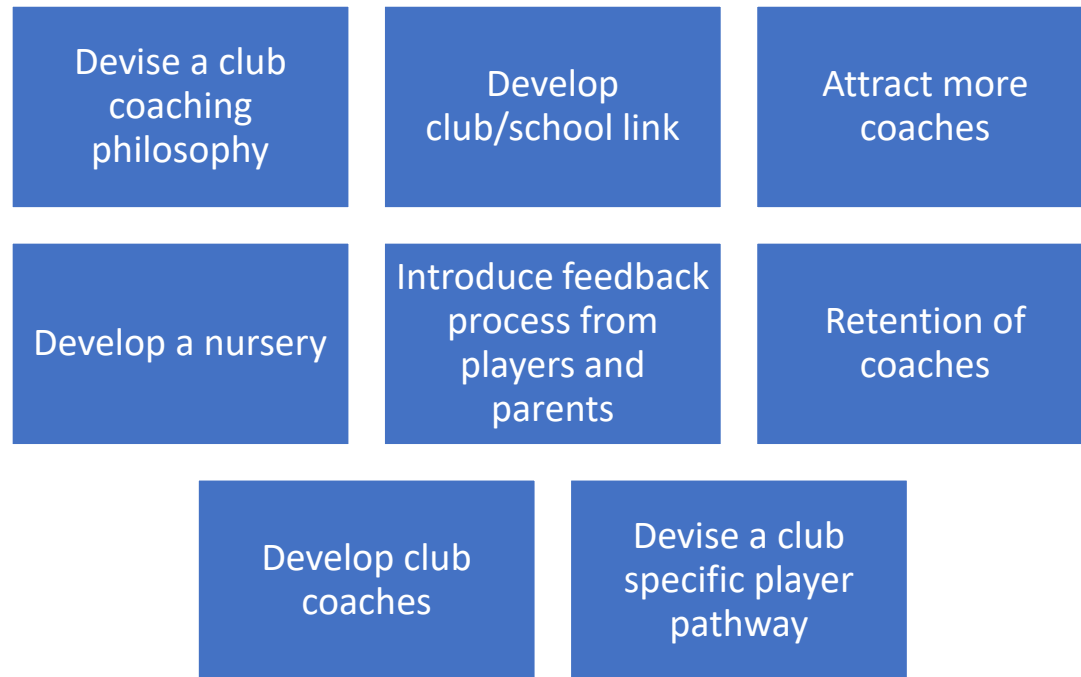
## Structure of CoP

- Catalyst initiate discussion (Culver and Trudel, 2008)
  - Video, article, tweet, webinar...
- Explore Coaching Issues / Topics
  - Coaches set the agenda (Jacobs, Diesktra & Sklad, 2015)
- Find Solutions
- Agree Action points
- Duration
  - Min. 60 mins – Max. 90 mins

# Sample Topics

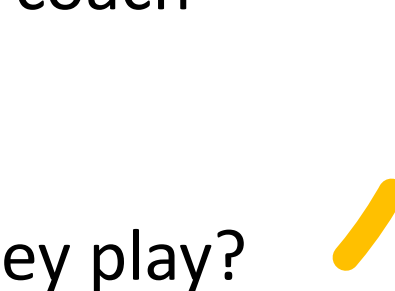
## Organisational

## Coaching



- How do we cater for players of various ability in a session
- How do I plan my sessions more effectively
- How do I cater for a large/small number of players in my session
- How can I improve engagement with my player

# Club Induction Session – What if's...

- Club coaches find it hard to grasp the concept of a self driven programme
  - Not everyone in the room know what they are coming to!!
  - Not all coaches or coaches who want to get involved are present at the induction session
  - There are some internal politics and clubs try to address these on the night!
  - Coaches do not identify the right coach leader
    - Popular person v right person!!
  - Club gave a GDA, what role do they play?
- 



**MTU**

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Munster Technological University



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND



# An Evaluation of a Club Coaching Community of Practice (CCCoP) programme across Gaelic Games

**MTU Research Team:**  
Eimear Foley & Irene Hogan



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PRE

- Induction meeting with coaches – PRE online survey (5-10 mins)

Mid point  
check

- Check in with CDs & Coach Leaders re engagement

POST

- Final session with coaches – POST online survey (10 mins)
- Optional Focus group for subset of coaches (online after programme – 1 hour)



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## Club Coaches Induction meeting – PRE survey

- Print out information sheet re evaluation for coaches (or we can post a batch to you). The QR code for survey will be on this.
- Have list of codes ready for your coaches e.g. CH001, CH002...Each code will be assigned a code and you will take note of their name in case they forget the code. Ask the coach to save the code on their phones.



## Final Exit Strategy meeting – POST survey

- A QR code will be shared with you prior to the final meeting
- Ask coaches to complete survey entering their unique code – this could be a feature of the final meeting as it might help the debrief.

## Support & Encouragement



- Encourage all coaches to participate in the research
- Support them if they need help with technology aspect or understanding questions.
- Try not to prompt too much
- Emphasise that the information will be kept confidential and anonymous – only the MTU research team will have access to the data and any information published will be general and not specific to a club



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Any Questions or Observations?

# Next Steps

- Make contact with your club – Contact details will sent via WhatsApp
- Decide if you feel an online club information session is required – if possible have completed by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan
- Agree date for the in person club coaches induction meeting – to be completed by 14<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Attend session two of CD upskilling on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January

# Useful Resource





Thank  
You

A blue paper cutout with the words "Thank You" in white, hanging from a string. The cutout has a scalloped, cloud-like border. The text is in a bold, rounded, sans-serif font. The word "Thank" is on the top line and "You" is on the bottom line. A small metal ring is attached to the top center of the cutout, and a light brown string is threaded through it.