



HOW TO RUN A CLUB GEAR SWAP

A gear and boot swap can be a great way to reduce waste in your club, save money for members and promote participation and inclusion for existing and prospective players. Gear swaps work well for players of all ages but are particularly relevant for younger teams, where players grow quickly out of gear and boots that are still in very good condition. Here are some tips for running a gear swap in your club.

PLANNING YOUR GEAR SWAPP

1. Gear Collection

Collect all gear and boots beforehand – consider organising and advertising a drop-off point for a fixed window of time as well as coordinating directly through teams. Consider enlisting team volunteers or parents/guardians to help with communication and collection.

2. Quality Control

Accept only gear and boots that are clean and in good condition

3. Sorting

Sort through all gear beforehand – having gear sorted and arranged can make it easier for club members to find gear that suits them.

4. Promotion

Use club social media channels, team groups, and club newsletters to advertise the day, time and location of the gear swap.

5. Event Location

Ensure your gear swap location is large enough for your gear to be clearly displayed and gives club members the space to browse easily and comfortably.

6. Leftover Gear

Decide ahead of time what you will do with any gear and boots that are left over. Contact your local charity shops to confirm whether they will accept any gear that you are left with afterwards. If you plan to hold regular gear swaps or have a permanent facility, ensure all leftover gear is clean and sorted before storing for the next time



TOP TIPS

WHAT SET-UP MAKES SENSE FOR YOUR CLUB?

Clubs choose different set-ups for their gear swaps, depending on their needs and resources. These can include:

- One-off or pop-up gear swaps
- Recurrent gear swaps (e.g. weekly, monthly, at the beginning and end of the season)
- Gear swap boxes
- Dedicated gear swap shops or spaces. Some clubs have received Community Climate Action Funding or other supports to develop permanent gear swaps shops, with shelving, storage etc



HOW TO GET THE MOST OF YOUR GEAR SWAP

CHOOSE THE MODEL THAT'S BEST FOR YOUR CLUB

- Many clubs choose to run a **free gear swap**, swap box or swap shop – where there is no charge for any of the gear or boots.
- In some cases, for a one-off or occasional gear swap, some clubs charge a **small entrance fee**, e.g., as a club or charity fundraiser.
- If your club decides to run a gear sale or charge in your swap shop - charging a small fee for each item, rather than a gear swap where the items are free - ensure this is **made clear in advance** to those donating gear and boots and consider giving vouchers for discounts to those who donate gear.
- Whatever model you choose for your club, ensure this is **communicated clearly** beforehand and on the day!



MAXIMISE SWAPABILITY! Thinking ahead with gear ordering

Some simple, thoughtful decisions when planning new gear orders can have a big impact:

1. Rethinking Initials on Gear

Minimising the use of names or initials on non-playing gear can make it easier and more attractive to swap - and remove the difference between new and swapped gear. Antrim Green Club Lámh Dhearg, who run very successful and popular gear swaps, no longer offer initialling on club leisure clothing

2. Keep the same design and colours

Having the same design and colours on gear across teams and over a number of seasons ensures that those availing of gear swaps have the same gear as their peers

3. Consider having the one design across all codes

Having a common gear design and colour palate across all codes in the club increases the potential for and attractiveness of gear swapping - especially for juvenile teams and players



TOP TIPS

Teams often take charge of ordering the own gear so ensure that teams and mentors are aware of these positive policies and practices and understand the difference they can make for the financial wellbeing of members, for inclusivity in the club and community and for the planet



IT'S NOT JUST GEAR!

Many clubs run very successful equipment swaps or have borrow schemes for, e.g. hurleys and helmets. As well as supporting existing club members, this can be a great way to encourage new players and community members into the club