

GAA GAMES DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

in partnership with



Talent Academy and Player Development Report

Michael Dempsey
Brian Cuthbert



GAA
HANDBALL

in association with



WHERE WE ALL BELONG GAA

Gathering Evidence

Where we are today in relation to player development ?

The Review Committee conducted a 32 County Review which included eliciting the viewpoints of all stakeholders. These included coaches at club and county levels, u16 players and their parents as well as teachers, fulltime coaching staff and county administrators. This was followed by a second period of gathering evidence involving various GAA committees.



Workshops

01 Every county had an opportunity to input into the review process

Previous Reports

02 The committee also considered previous reports in the GAA and elsewhere

The Positives

The Network of Facilities

Stakeholders in most counties described how their academy players had access to quality facilities within their counties. A number of counties had Centers of Excellence.



Exposure to Other Coaches

Players and their parents especially focused on the quality of coaches available to them at academy level. In many counties players were working with very experienced coaches who had involvement at all 3 levels of the game over numerous years.





1

| Stage | Child | | | Youth | | | Adult | | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Age Group | Age 4 - 11 | | | Age 12 - 17 | | | Age 18 + | | |
| Phase | Nursery | Early Go Games | Late Go Games | Early Teenage | Mid Teenage | Late Teenage | Early Adult | Adult | Retirement/Retainment |
| Specific Age | 4-6 Years | 7-9 Years | 10-11 Years | 12-13 Years | 14-15 Years | 16-17 Years | 18-21 Years | 22+ Years | Becoming a Coach/ |



2

Coach¹⁰ Activity Wheel
A Games Based Approach

What needs Attention

It was commonly agreed that these 4 areas need particular attention in player development in Gaelic Games. These 4 themes emerged from the data and had a commonality in every county in the country in terms of areas that needed immediate attention.



3



4

Fixtures Calendar

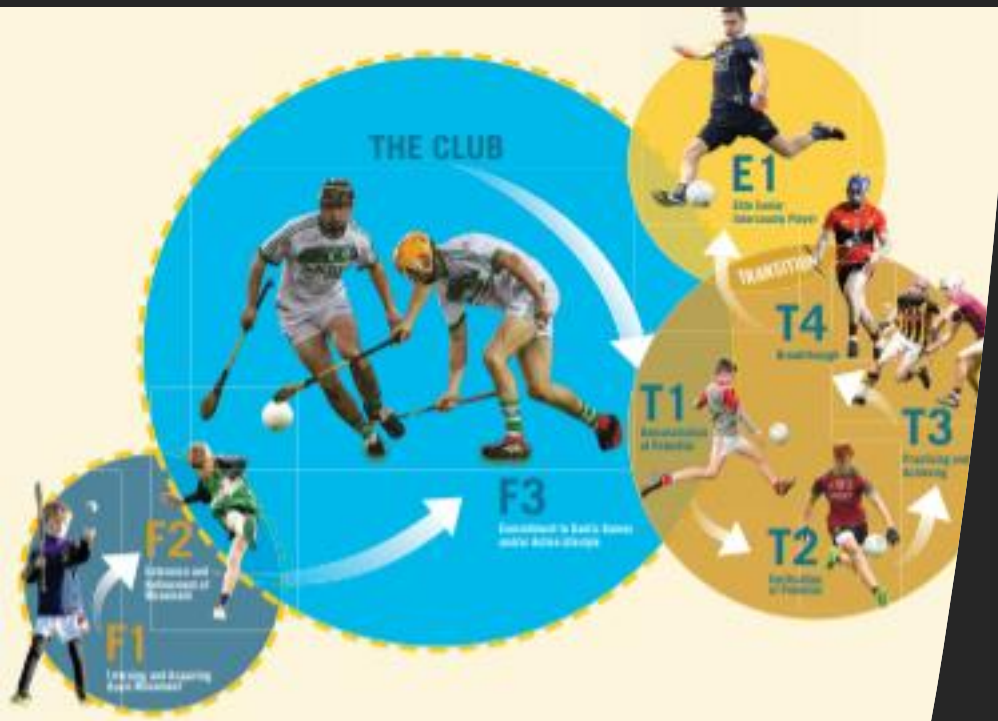
4 Key Recommendations

Uniformity across the Country

The following recommendations are the culmination of 32 county workshops which asked of the various strand of stakeholder what they felt needed to change in relation to player development from their perspective.



The Pathway



Recommendation 1

Reposition the Club at the centre of the player pathway. The framework will act as a structure whereby we can begin to hang programmes around education and player development. These programmes in turn are underpinned by values that allow the player and his club to occupy the central spaces in the development process.

What is the GAA Player Pathway Framework?



Recommendation 2

Education Opportunities

All Gaelic Games stakeholders will be given new opportunities in terms of acquiring new knowledge and practices. These stakeholders will be inclusive of coaches, referees, parents and administrators.

Games Programme

Recommendation 4

It is imperative that a new level of clarity and co-ordination is brought to fixtures at club, school and academy levels.



What does the GAA actually want?

Changed
Environments:
What would
these
promote?

01 | Values.

02 | Culture.

03 | Inclusivity.

04 | Holism.

05 | The Club

What is this report trying to achieve?

This report attempts to paint development as a long-term integrated process whereby stakeholders work together to allow players the space to reach their potential and lifelong participants in the GAA

The Challenges

01 Education

Coaches, administrators and Parents.

02 Fixtures

Synergy necessary between club, school and academy

03 Club Focus, Transitions and Age Grade Debate

Promoting all initiatives within clubs first and foremost.

04 A Common Curriculum

Developing a common curriculum at each age group that stakeholders will follow



The Text Message

Training for Feile 2020 starts Wednesday 13th Nov 6.30pm, training will be every Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm, every Friday 7pm - 8pm (in the Club gym for age related core training for Nov and Dec) and Sundays on pitch 2 at 10am. Even though training times are early players must be at training 20 - 30 minutes before training starts for foam rolling (get a foam roller if you haven't got one) and stretching (this is imperative for improving flexibility and reducing muscle injury).

If players are injured/ unwell or have played with the school the day of training there is still an expectation of attending training, we will have a separate prehab / rehab session for any who cannot do a full session.

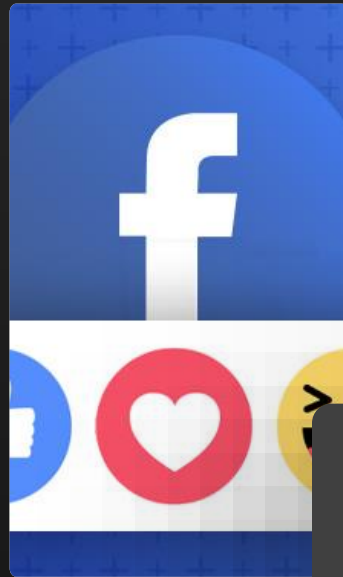
Feile championship starts around the end of February 2020, if you have commitments to other sports or other activities and cannot give a commitment to 90-95% of the sessions between now and the end of February please let me know, I have a limited number of 25 places for this training and if you cannot commit I want to offer this place to another player. There will still be a place for you on the B / C team who are starting training early in January. Some of this 25 will also be part of the B team for challenge / championship games.

Please let me know whether your child is / is not available for this.

Thanks, Mick



Why now for these Recommendations?



Multiple Identities
Youths now possess a number of identities and move from one identity to the next as suits

Challenging Identity

Poor competition structure and poor environments ultimately challenge identity

Identity and Dropout

When identity is challenged, youths will simply find a new identity

Do we really want Change?

What kind of experience can we provide for this boy? Will it be chaotic, one which promotes survival of the fittest or will it be coordinated, positive and appropriate? The question is, who decides?



Míle Buíochas

