



Straffan Camogie Club Age Policy

Straffan Camogie Club is committed to providing playing opportunities to all juvenile members in all age groups. Taking in order to do this the club needs to adhere to a policy where members of the club will train and play with a team of their own age where such a team exists. This is at all levels from Go Games to the Adult Team.

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 Camogie Association.

It is unfair and is 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 all age groups, and the club policy of training and playing in your age group is aligned with this ambition.

- Players must have primary allegiance to, train and play first in their own age group.
- Players playing in the correct age group must not leave that team and join an older team of their own accord. Playing up with an older team is necessary at many age groups for a variety of reasons. However, a player must not do so at the expense of their own team at their own age group. Where a player is required to play up (with a team they have not been training and playing with always as above), the coach of the older team must receive permission from the Coach of the younger team before playing players up. The player should not be informed of the request, until full agreement has been received by the requesting Coach & parental approval should then be sought.
- Where there is a clash (games to be played at the same time) prioritization should be given to playing with their own age. Coaches are expected to make their selection with due consideration for every player on their panel. Coaches should not play younger players ahead of a player of the that age group. Players & Parents are expected to respect these decisions. Coaches must endeavour to give all players playing time in each game.

- If a player wants to move up to an older age group, the parents must write to the Club Secretary with their reasons and the Executive will consider this request. The Executive must take into consideration the numbers, the effect on both age groups and the opinion of both coaches before reaching a decision on the request. A decision must be made within 14 days.

Straffan Camogie Club Executive