Juvenile Playing Policy

This policy has been drafted to ensure players are playing on an appropriate team, that mentors are aware of what team or teams a player is eligible for and to ensure that we have teams across as many age groups as possible, therefore ensuring the sustainability of each team and playing time for each player. Please remember, as Mentors, Parents and Officers we are here for the betterment of the players, all teams and the Club as a whole. For clarity a juvenile player will be under 18 years of age on the 1st of January on any given season.

1. The current GAA/LGFA GoGames rules will apply to all Children up to and including u11. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/616723bea1554179c48d1fb4/t/63feb0905c5d9d715c5cff70/1677635728974/Go+Games+Policy+Document+2023.pdf

2. Players must make themselves available to the team in their own age group ahead of any other teams they may be involved in. A player can play for any appropriate age group above his/her own as long as it does not interfere with him/her representing the Club at their own age group.

3. If a player is selected to play up he/she must continue to train with their own age group and there is no obligation to train with the older age group if the player is already attending adequate training sessions with their own age group.

3.1 Parents should manage the level of activity of their children with the team coaches if their child is also involved in other sports.

4. When a team needs a player to play up, the coach must seek permission from the coach of the younger team to provide a player. The coach of the younger team decides which of the team is offered the chance to play up and is responsible for communicating the offer to the parents of the player involved.

5. Selection of players to 'play up' must adhere to the following guidelines:
All players from the younger age group should be included in the squad of the team they are playing up to.

If this leads to more players than required being available then:

It is preferable to rotate the chance to 'play up' among players from the younger team at the coach's discretion. Factors to be considered when rotating up will include, physical strength, mental strength, regular training attendance, and having the appropriate skills, attitude and ability to play up.

5.1 The players in the higher age group must be given priority over the players 'playing up'.

6. If the Club does not field or is unable to field at a particular age group then the next available age group will be deemed their age group.

E.g. a player who is 13 years old on or before the 31st of December of said year is an u13 player. If the Club cannot or does not field at u13 level and has an u14 team then the player will be deemed

an u14 player for that season. In the following season, the player will still be an u14 player and must represent the u14 team before playing at any other age group.

7. The maximum age group the Club would like to see a player play above their age would depend on the age of the child as per (Rule 6.11 of the Official Guide P1).

(Rule 6.11 of the Official Guide P1).

> 6.16 Age Grades
> To be eligible for the Grades listed hereunder, a player shall meet the respective stated age criteria:
> Adult: Be over 16 years.
> Under-21: Be Under 21 years and Over 16 years.
> minor (Under 18): Be Under 18 years and Over 14 years.
> Under 16: Be Under 16 years and Over 12 years.
> Under 14: Be Under 14 years and Over 10 years.
> Under 12: Be Under 12 years and Over 9 years.
> To be "Under" an age shall mean that the player shall celebrate the Upper Limit birthday (e.g. 21st. for Under 21 Grade) on the 1st. January of the Championship Year or on a later date.
> To be "Over" an age shall mean that the player shall have celebrated the Lower Limit birthday (e.g. 16th. to participate in Senior/Under 21 Grades) prior to the 1st. January of the Championship Year. Girls may participate only up to and including the Under 12 Grade.

8. Eligibility for the u8 Go Games team will be defined as follows. An u8 player is defined as being no older than 8 years old on or before the 31st December of that year and no younger than 7 years old on or before the 31st December of the previous year.

o Players under 7 years of age can play at u8 level subject to rule 1 above.

9. Priority will always be given to championship first, league second & cup third.
Where a fixture of equal standing is fixed, the mentors should find an amicable solution and not put added pressure on the player to choose. i.e. One of the teams could move the start time of their match to accommodate the player(s) involved & the favour returned when possible.

10. Any issues that may arise, for whatever reason, will be looked into by the Determining Committee, and the Children's Officer, if necessary, before being passed on to the Executive.