Pitch Usage Policy

Here are the facts:

Grass pitches should not be expected to take more than 300 hours of use a year

That's six hours a week year-round or about eight hours a week from February to October, a typical GAA 'season'. If one Club adult team plays 12 home games and undertakes two one-and-a-half hour training sessions a week for 30 weeks, that's over 100 hours usage in a year. Reserves/seconds could add 25 hours to that total. A Ladies team will easily add the same again, bringing the total to 150 hours. If an underage team plays ten home games and undertakes one one-and a-half hour training session a week for 10 weeks, that's 25 hours usage in a year. Ranged across U6s; U8s; U10s; U12s; U13s; U14s; U16s; Minors; and U21s that can gross up to well over 200 hours in a year. Add in Schools; Community games ; County needs; and other games and training sessions and many GAA Clubs now need to accommodate well over 400 hours of pitch usage a year. Cramming that all onto one pitch is not the answer!

Guidelines for use of our Pitches

The following guidelines will apply to the use of our pitches and facilities:

Facility Care

The allocation of pitches for all training and games is coordinated by the PRO and Grounds Committee.

The Grounds Subcommittee will decide if our pitches are playable. If any pitch is unplayable, the Grounds subcommittee will inform the Chairperson and all coaches.

All drills, runs, shuttles, etc., and intensive warmups that may cause damage to the playing surface of the pitch must be carried out on the training pitch all year round.

Conditioned games should be played across the pitch where possible. This will protect the goal-mouths, which are the most susceptible areas to damage.

Any team using our pitches for games must put out flags and also take them down after the game in their allocated location.

Juvenile goals must be secured before and after use (important for Health and Safety purposes). Goals not in use must be stored to the back of the hurling wall.

All bottles/gear/rubbish should be removed from side lines of both home team and opposition and the area surrounding pitches following matches to ensure area is kept neat and tidy.

The last team in the ground must ensure that dressing rooms and gates are locked and that any lights are switched off.

The Grounds committee will co-ordinate a schedule for cutting & lining of pitches. Each Games Code will be required to participate in this schedule and assist when required.

Pitch Allocation

All pitch booking must be made through the club manager 365 online portal in advance. All managers will have a username and password. If you require a new one, please let a committee member know. All teams up to and including under 12 teams MUST use the top pitch** All teams from Under 14 up can avail of the near pitch weather permitting but are encouraged to use the training area and top pitch were possible.

Team Managers looking for a change of fixture must take into account and respect existing fixture schedules involving other teams. No team is more important than another. Any correspondence with Kildare GAA or LGFA regarding fixtures must be handled by the relevant section Club Secretary.

The local primary school will be entitled to apply for the use of club pitches for midweek school matches, on a fixture by fixture basis.

When the main pitch is closed, it is closed to all activity until further notice. No exceptions. This will be for the benefit of all trams in the main playing season.

Home Games

Each games section is responsible for the collection of gate receipts for applicable games (adult competition). These games will be looked after by the matchday subcommittee.

All nett gate monies must be forwarded to the Club Treasurer to lodge to Club accounts.

Dressing Rooms

Dressing rooms should be locked while players are on the pitch. Team Mentors will be responsible for locking up and turning off lights in dressing rooms and toilets.

Team Mentors should ensure that dressing rooms/showers and general areas that are occupied by teams, prior to, during and after training and matches are kept clean and are not damaged in any way. Each team is responsible for cleaning all used dressing rooms after matches. Please leave it as you found it.

The use of cameras, smart phones or any other recording device or medium is strictly forbidden in the dressing room and surrounding areas.

Valuables are left in the dressing room at the owners own risk.

Equipment Stores

The equipment stores should be kept tidy at all times.

All equipment should be returned to their relevant store after training/match is complete and locked.

Keys

Keys should be used to open and close dressing rooms and the gym and should be put back after use. Under no circumstances are keys to be removed from the premises.

** The top pitch will have a works programme in 2024 to ensure it is cut and playable at all times.

The main pitch has been assessed and from 2024 on will have a work programme of aeration, seeding and fertilisation in place.