



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Coaching & Games Development

Head of Agreement: For all School Coaches

The following conditions constitute the Heads of Agreement between Antrim Coaching & Games Development, **(Club)** _____ GAA Club and **(School)** _____ acquiring coaching provision.

Specific Conditions:

A. The Governing Body shall undertake the following responsibilities:-

- Provide a reliable and responsible coach fully qualified with the appropriate coaching and child protection requirements. The coach, if asked should be able to provide either a photographic card showing identity, qualification, child protection or Access NI certificate etc.
- Arrange an initial meeting with the school principal and PE coordinator to arrange a timetable.
- Provide coaching for an agreed period of time in the school year.
- Provide teachers with a programme of lessons which they will be able to teach to their pupils.
- Provide workshops or courses to up-skill teachers, PE co-ordinators, classroom assistants etc.
- Provide access to coaching resources such as Fundamentals, Learn To Train Manuals, Fun Do Pack, Gaelic Start Coaching Cards, Céim ar Aghaidh etc.
- Co-ordinate and organise events for schools to participate internally and externally e.g. Go Games Blitzes, Alternate Sport's Events, U-Can skill awards etc.
- Create an opportunity for all members of the community to meet and participate together either during after school clubs or evening sessions through the new Gaelic Start Programme.

B. Governing Body Contract:-

The Governing Body, represented by the coach, will

- Meet with the Principal and the Teacher with the Post of Responsibility for Physical Education/Games to discuss and agree the following:
 - The games scheme of work/coaching sessions to be followed
 - The responsibility of the classes and teachers who will participate in the coaching programme e.g. teacher must be present at all times and be actively involved in each session.
 - The equipment and resources required.
 - Starting and finishing times and dates.
 - Management of Discipline procedures
 - A structure for the development of regional Go Games blitzes.
 - Provide opportunities for after school and local club links.

Note: At all times the teacher will be in charge of class discipline and behaviour issues arising during the coaching sessions.

C. Coach:-

The Coach will:

- Meet and plan schedule of schools with his/her games manager.
- Demonstrate punctuality and professionalism at all times throughout his/her time at the school.
- Be suitably attired at all times in County Antrim/Ulster Council coaching gear.
- Familiarise him/herself with the school's policy on physical education plus any other relevant school policies e.g. enriched curriculum, school discipline, Policy on First Aid, Medication to Children, Special Needs, Inclusion etc.
- Present blank sample lesson plans at the start of each lesson and a lesson plan of lesson taken at the end of each games block i.e. handling/kicking/striking so teachers can follow and subsequently participate in the presentation of lessons.
- The lesson plan should be as simple as possible for teachers with very little competence and knowledge of Physical Education when starting the coaching programme.
- Liaise with each class teacher on class rules, children with special needs etc.
- The lesson plans should reflect the skill levels of pupils.
- Involve teachers, either in participation or in actual teaching during the lesson delivery e.g. ask teacher to take part of lesson during next lesson for delivery during the next visit etc.
- Invite teachers to take part in the GAA Teacher Coaching Programme as part of their CPD.
- Incorporate language and numeracy skills into their coaching as much as possible. Coaches should find out what is happening in the classroom and try and link in cross curricular subjects and themes especially personal mutual understanding to their own lessons.
- Incorporate secondary theme tasks if an indoor hall is not provided on wet weather days e.g. health related information
- Make the principal aware of any difficulties he/she is experiencing with the sessions e.g. teacher not cooperating with the programme.
- Report sick leave, holidays etc. to Ulster Council/Antrim Games Manager and schools.
- Coaches should aim for no more than 5/6 lessons per day or more than 2 schools or 3 smaller schools.
- Schools could possibly use after school hours to run internal in service sessions for teachers.
- In order for schools to plan ahead coaches should visit in April/May to plan their time table for the following school year.

D. Schools:-

The following elements will be specific requirements of their involvement within the programme:

The School will:

- Show their school policy on physical education to the coach to support him/her in integrating their games programme.
- Make the coach aware of any other relevant school policies e.g. Positive School Discipline and Behaviour, Policy on First Aid, Medication to Children, Inclusion etc.
- Make the coach aware of children with the classes selected with specific needs or disabilities
- Facilitate coaching for the agreed period with the possibility of an extra-curricular slot also being provided to develop a club in the school (School/Club link).
- Facilitate lessons of 40-50 minutes for each group of children.
- Adhere to agreed times, dates and days as supplied by the Games Manager prior to the commencement of coaching period.
- Ensure that class teachers always remain in the lesson and assist in the delivery of the session.
- Report any concerns immediately about any elements of the programme to their Games Manager or line manager.

- Facilitate the involvement in local external Go Games blitzes, Fun Sport's Day events etc.
- Encourage teachers to use the programme after the coach leaves.
- Facilitate local clubs in their liaison with schools and the advertising of club events.
- Where possible facilitate the club with the provision of school facilities in catering for club community events e.g. Gaelic start programme (4-7 year olds), indoor activities for 7-12 year olds.
- Evaluate and monitor the programme for themselves, the coaches and the line manager through benchmarking the teachers and pupils.
- Where possible facilitate at least one teacher to be released during the year to undertake a coaching qualification e.g. Gaelic Start, Fundamentals, Learn to Train, Foundation Course etc. (County Co-ordinator will inform schools about courses)
- Schools would be expected to supply equipment for the delivery of the programme. Coaches should help schools decide what and how much equipment they need to run the programme.

E. GAA Club:-

- The club is responsible for appointing a club/school link officer. His /her main duty is to be the main point of contact for the School Principal and Antrim Games Manager.
- The club/school link officer is also responsible for arranging a meeting with the School Principal and club delegates. The purpose of this meeting is to build/maintain relationships between the school and the club, and to show the School Principal the club's underage policies and structures.
- Promote and advise the school and pupils of relevant club events and activities for the pupils by establishing a GAA club notice board in the school, information leaflets for parents and making regular school visits wearing club colours.
- Where possible assist the school with the provision of club facilities in catering for school events e.g. Sports day or school matches.
- Where possible provide the school with some financial assistance e.g. equipment or transport to matches.
- If it is possible for the club to provide a coach to assist either the Antrim or Ulster coach in delivering after-schools programmes and/or other coaching programmes. Also to ensure that the club coach has Access NI, GAA Child Protection and either foundation football or hurling qualifications.
- Invite the Principal, local school staff and the Board of Governors to club events.
- Encourage the children and their families to get involved in Gaelic Games by hosting "welcome day/nights" to introduce and promote the club to the community and communicating the many ways families can be involved with the club.

Monitoring & Evaluation of the programme:

- Coaches will be monitored and evaluated by members of the Ulster Council/Antrim County GAA.
- DENI/Ulster council coaches will also be inspected by the Department's inspectorate from time to time.
- The Antrim Coaching & Games Manager will monitor the "Club/School Link Initiative" by analysing school audit results and feedback forms from School Principals/PE Co-ordinators. She will present the results to the school and club and evaluate the initiative with the clubs.

Certificate of Agreement:

School Name: _____

Club Name: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Club Chairperson Signature: _____

Club/School Link Officer Signature: _____

Games Manager Signature: _____

Date: _____

We accept the conditions stated throughout this document and fully support our involvement in the programme.