

Playing Time Policy For Underage Teams Ballyhooly & Ballycastle GAA

Equal playing time up to and including U12 level.

Mandatory minimum, meaningful game time for each player at U13, U15 and U17 of at least 20 mins per game for each player.

Coaches at each age group to facilitate how this works for each playing group depending on squad numbers.

For championship games at U15 & U17 it is at coaches discretion on game time given. *

Mandatory: It has to happen for every player on the panel in that game

Minimum: Coach has the discretion to give some players more time than others depending on a range of factors (effort, attendance in training, team structure etc.)

Meaningful: All players to experience gametime when 'game is on the line' (rather than token game-time when hammering or getting hammered by another team or just in challenge matches)

*The group recommends that this point warrants further discussion in the near future

Players are allowed to play up where the older group cannot field teams without their support.

Players playing up will be chosen and rotated by their on-age coach in consultation with their parents.

The players first loyalty must be to their own age group.

A player playing up cannot be started ahead of a player who is on the age group for their team. (Example: An on age U12 cannot take the starting place of an U13/14 on the U14 team)

Eg. On-age equates to U14s and 15s on an U15 team

Note from u13s up the "on-age" coach requests players they require.

Procedure to follow for any team in age group up to U12 who cannot field a team and needs players from the age group immediately below it.

1. The two head coaches meet and decide who the most suitable players are to play in the higher age bracket in both codes.

2. The older group will assess the amount of players they need for each code (hurling and football). 2 panels will be put together (one for each code). The amount of players needed plus half that amount again will make up each panel i.e. 4 players needed 6 players will be chosen.

3. Permission is then sought from the parents to play their child in the older age group. If any of the parents refuse to let their child play in the higher age groups the head coaches will meet again and repeat the above process to select the next best candidate. The players chosen will then be rotated in consultation with their parents and the coaches of the group they are playing up with.

A player playing up cannot be started ahead of a player who is on the age group for their team.

If agreement on players cannot be made between the two head coaches on players ability to play up, they must refer to child's age. The oldest child(ren) will get preference where no agreement can be made between coaches.

*If a parent feels the club rules above are not being implemented for their child they should firstly consult with their coach to get an explanation..

If they are still unhappy they are entitled to make a complaint through the [GAA's Alleged breach of code of behaviour procedure](#) with the Children's Officer or Coaching Officer.