



Donegal GAA Head of Academy

Job Description

Reporting to: Donegal Head of Games Development

Location: Donegal GAA Centre, Broadpath, Convoy, Co Donegal.

Contract: Part-Time rolling contract - reviewed annually

Salary: TBC

Working Hours: There will be a flexible approach to the working hours but must average 20 hours/week within the Academy season (01/01/24 – 01/10/24). As outlined below, this will include hours as necessary for the successful performance in the role, with consideration for Academy activities and meeting attendance.

PURPOSE OF ROLE

Supporting the delivery of the Donegal GAA vision and strategy for player and coach development within the Donegal GAA Academy, including both Football and Hurling inter-county teams up to and including sub senior squads during the talent phase of the player and coach pathway.

The vision behind this role will place the player/coach at the centre of the pathway in order to develop the knowledge and skills which will empower them to achieve their full potential and overcome challenges presented along their journey.

RESPONSIBILITIES/ DUTIES

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

- Regular communication of vision and supporting strategies for both the Football and Hurling Academies to all stakeholders
- Design, implement and deliver player development plans.
- Design, implement and deliver coaching development plans, including sports science practitioner supports.



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ACADEMY MANAGEMENT

- Ensure that Donegal GAA governance arrangements are implemented within the Academy
- Delivering of all activity within the agreed budget set by the County Board including the allocation of budgets to the individual teams within the academy and provide regular management reporting.
- Oversee the development of a data management system, to include the benchmarking of key qualities to facilitate gauging an individual player's progress at any point of their developmental journey.
- Liaise with management teams on a weekly basis to provide updates on training and match schedules, while also provide updates on coaching across the squads and collective direction on strategies to be implemented.
- Facilitating end of season reviews with academy squad managers, coaches, squad support teams and Donegal GAA management.
- Attend academy sessions to provide pre, live and post-session feedback to coaches.
- Liaise with the Donegal Head of Games Development in the organising of tournament days for academy squads.
- Liaise with the Academy Logistics Manager on the provision of necessary supports (including stewarding) for Academy activities.
- Liaise with management of Donegal GAA facilities regarding Academy activities and ensure that coaches and players follow all systems and procedures while availing of facilities provided.
- Ensure exemplary standards of behaviour from Academy players is maintained at all times and adequate supervision of all Academy players takes place at all times while on GAA property.



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ACADEMY COACHES

- Oversee the coach development program for academy squad coaches.
- Ensure all Academy Coaches have the relevant GAA Coaching Education Qualifications (Essential ICGG but working towards Award 1 & 2).
- Development of a Code of Practice for Academy squad coaches.
- Development of a mentoring program for Academy coaches.
- Delivering Coach Education workshops throughout the season in collaboration with the Donegal Head of Games Development.
- Potential for completion of research within Donegal academy squads which may be mutually beneficial to the researcher and Donegal coaches.
- Support the development of a quality assurance system including a community of practice for Academy coaches and sports science practitioners.
- Oversee the recruitment process of coaches and management teams for Academy squads from U14 to U16.
- Contribute to the recruitment process of U17 and U20 County management teams.
- Contribute to the recruitment process of the support teams (sports science/ performance coaches, physio, strength and conditioning coaches (interims), dietician, etc) for the Donegal GAA Academy.



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PLAYERS

- Oversee and outline a season calendar for academy squads which considers the player's holistic, academic and physical development. This needs to take into account the physical loading of players, and ensure a balanced program is designed for players across their respective squads. Players' school and club commitments should also be taken into account. Opportunities to bring in special guests to assist players in their psychological development, life-skills, studies and team bonding should be included in the season calendar.
- Develop and communicate squad selection and deselection processes, which will involve games development staff, club & school coaches, parents and the players. Provision for Relative Age Effect to be taken into consideration.
- Support County schools and clubs in the management, coordination and implementation of profiling their players, including (but not limited to) technical and athletic qualities.
- Ensure all players involved with Donegal at every level of the pathway have a comprehensive database of key information recorded and stored. This information must be shared with the individual.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Build and maintain relationships with all key stakeholders (County Board, Clubs, Schools, Parents) in the Donegal Games Player Pathway.
- Lead the design of a tactical and technical curriculum for all county squads from U14 to U20.
- Develop partnerships with third level institutes to engage suitably qualified graduates into the Academy squad system.



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REPORTING/ COMMUNICATION

- Regular meetings with the Head of Games Development and Coaching Officer to communicate on all aspects of the Academy
- Establish and maintain an agreed methodology of communication with Academy coaches and support teams each week, to ensure a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach.
- Review squad operations monthly against agreed KPIs and provide monthly written updates to County Minor Board, via Donegal Head of Games Development. Provide annual Academy review prior to County Convention.

CANDIDATE SPECIFICATION

Essential

- A third level degree in Exercise and Sports Science, Sports Performance, Human Movement, Physical Education, or related area (Minimum Level 7 NFQ);
- Minimum Award 1 Coach Development qualification.
- Demonstrated leadership experience in sport, as well as managerial, organisational, communication and administrative skills that facilitate a supportive environment of both growth and improvement.
- Knowledge of the technical, physical, psychological, and tactical demands associated with Gaelic Games.
- Excellent coaching skills. Minimum of 3 years' coaching experience in the Gaelic Games pathway required.
- Excellent knowledge around player profiling and screening of athletic qualities.