

Wexford Coaching & Games Development Report 2017

Our Aim is to: Increase Participation & Optimise Standards

Report

2017 has seen C&GD (Coaching & Games Development) focus on **Coach Education, Talent Academies & Camps**.

The tutor group under the chair of **Michael Byrne** have provided foundation and award 1 courses to ensure coaches are adhering to the mandatory coaching standards set down by the GAA for 2017. Over 500 coaches have engaged in workshops & courses and it is our intention in 2018 to continue this high volume of work.

Our Kellogg's Cúl Camps under the coordination of **Diarmuid Byrne** had a record 5,700 children attending with over 120 coaches active throughout the summer. This increase over the last three years is testament to the good work happening right throughout the county.

Our Model Academies coordinated by our talent development leaders have catered for over 400 players with 75 coaches supporting their progress throughout the year.

Wexford Coaching and Games Development is indebted to so many coaches, teachers, parents, and referees in our clubs and schools that made 2017 another positive year. We hope this report gives you an overview of our work and highlights some of the projects we will be focusing on in 2018.

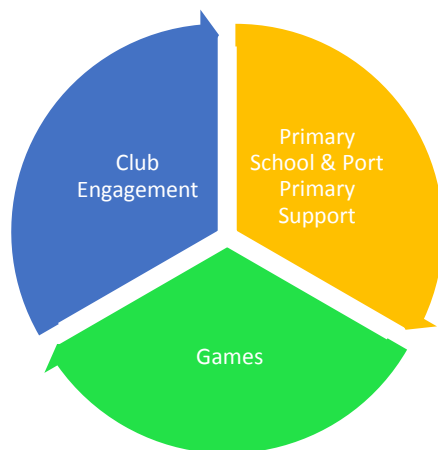


Figure 1 Key Focus Areas 2018

Coach Education & Club Development

Across the county a number of Foundation & Award 1 Courses took place with good numbers. We have more advanced courses available and we shall support any coach that wishes to apply.

A program based on providing coach education to clubs on an ongoing basis was our club cluster program. Over 500 coaches across the county engaged with this over the course of the year.

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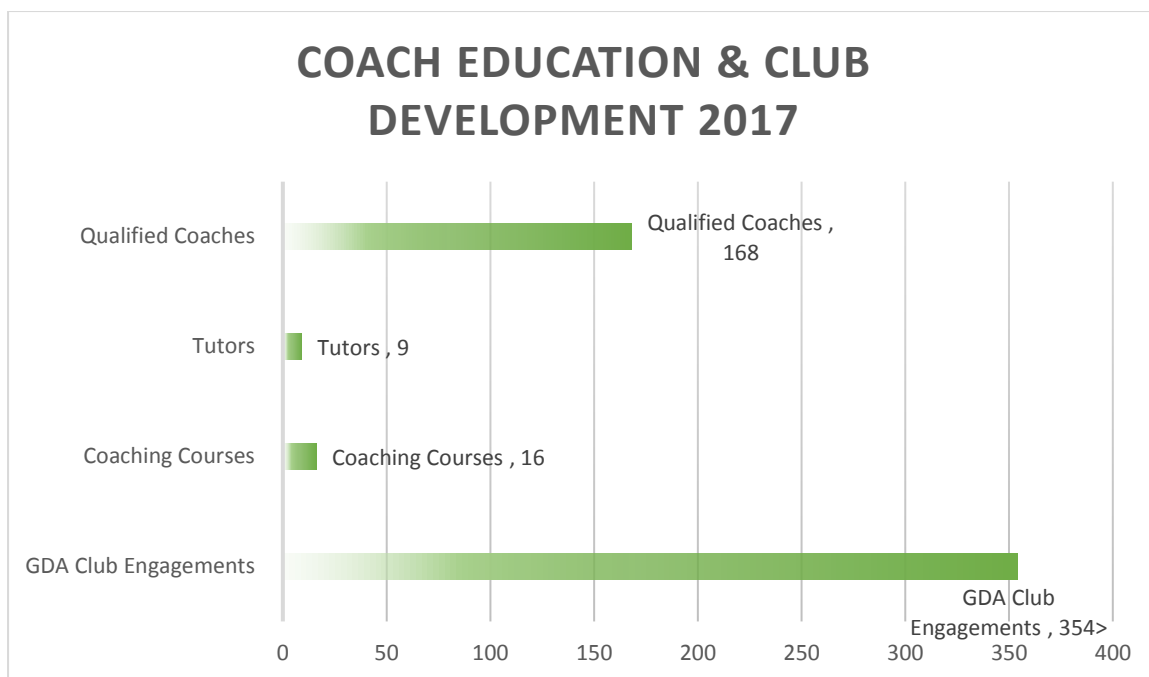


Figure 2 Coach Education & Club Stats 2018

In 2018 we are going to start the year by providing workshops in each district led by our games development administrators. We want to make **club engagement** a key priority for 2018 and we hope clubs will continue to buy into the support offered by our games development team. The addition of our GPO's will enable our team to be even more active in supporting clubs.

GDA – Shane O Hanlon	GDA – Willie Cleary	GDA – Diarmuid Byrne	GDA – Anthony Masterson
GAA 15 Warm Up January 29 th Shelmaliers GAA	GAA 15 Warm Up January 31 st Buffers Alley GAA	GAA 15 Warm Up January 29 th Bunclody GAA	GAA 15 Warm Up January 31 st Cranford GAA
Late Teenage Player Pathway February 5 th Kilmore GAA	Late Teenage Player Pathway February 7 th Buffers Alley GAA	Late Teenage Player Pathway February 5 th Bunclody GAA	Late Teenage Player Pathway February 7 th Castletown GAA
Early Go Games Player Pathway February 12 th Kilmore GAA	Early Go Games Player Pathway February 14 th Buffers Alley GAA	Early Go Games Player Pathway February 14 th Bunclody GAA	Early Go Games Player Pathway February 14 th Cranford GAA
Mid Teenage Player Pathway February 19 th Shelmaliers GAA	Mid Teenage Player Pathway February 21 st Buffers Alley GAA	Mid Teenage Player Pathway February 19 th Bunclody GAA	Mid Teenage Player Pathway February 21 st Castletown GAA
Have a Ball Player Pathway February 26 th Kilmore GAA	Have a Ball Player Pathway February 29 th Buffers Alley GAA	Have a Ball Player Pathway February 26 th Bunclody GAA	Have a Ball Player Pathway February 29 th Cranford GAA
Specialised Workshops			
Youth Resistance Training February 21 st / December 11 th Shelmaliers/ Horeswood GAA	Club School Link Coaching September 10 th / 17 th Buffers Alley / Rathnure GAA	Introduction to Nutrition February 12 th / November 19 th St Martins / Ballygarret GAA	Introduction to Goalkeeping January 22 nd / December 12 th Castletown / Horeswood
AVAILABLE TO BOOK ONLINE FOR FREE			

*Club Workshops Quarter 1 2018

Primary Schools

The program “**Introduction to Gaelic Games**” focuses on classes up to and including 4th class. Thereafter the school & club is encouraged to partner in ensuring all classes receive some form of assistance (**Hurling 365/Club School Link**). The program is based around giving children an active start to Gaelic Games. The **Hurling 365** program under the guidance of **Willie Cleary** has encouraged clubs to become more active in supporting their schools. This coupled with our CE scheme and the work of our GDA’s in promoting club school links will further enhance our presence in schools throughout the county.

The **GAA 5 Star Centre** that will be piloted in 2018 is also another offering to schools in showcasing the schools commitment to facilitating GAA activities.

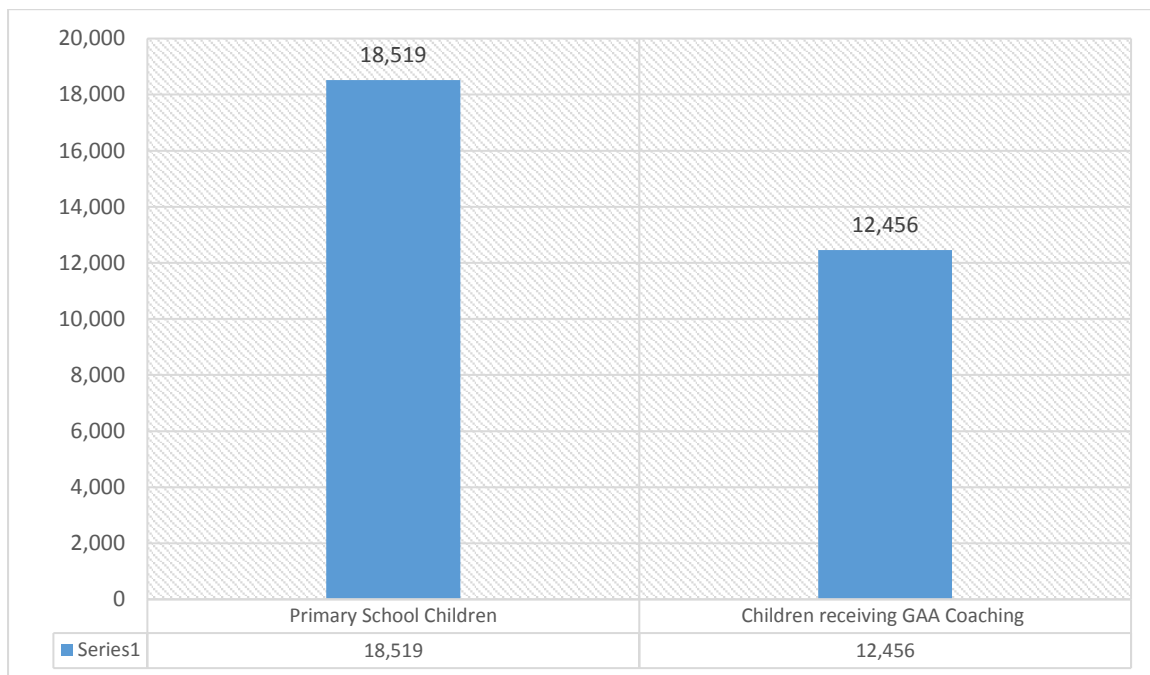


Figure 3 Children Receiving GAA Coaching *Average 2017

Secondary Schools

Wexford Coaching & Games offer **coaching support** to all secondary schools who wish to avail of it. The aim is to assist schools in the running of their teams to facilitate participation in all games & blitzes. The **GAA Leadership and Coaching Program** aims to improve the overall concept of educating young people in the art of coaching Gaelic Games. Fourteen schools throughout the county availed of this program with many of the students now assisting in their local clubs or acting as assistance throughout the Summer Camps.

Last year the coaching & games team ran eight blitzes with a total of **850** children taking part. A huge area of our work is with the 1st & 2nd year students through coaching assistance and **Super Games Centres**.

Wexford Coaching and Games would like to extend a special thanks to the Secondary Schools Committee who organise a comprehensive games program on an annual basis.

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Academy Squads – Model Academy

The academy program comes under the remit of the coaching and games committee. The structure sees a **periodic approach** to developing athletes ensuring players get the opportunity to participate in both hurling & football squads. Under the guidance of the full time staff volunteers manage squads from U13 – U16 (Hurling & Football). Full time staff have developed specific athlete development programs to assist players in their overall development.

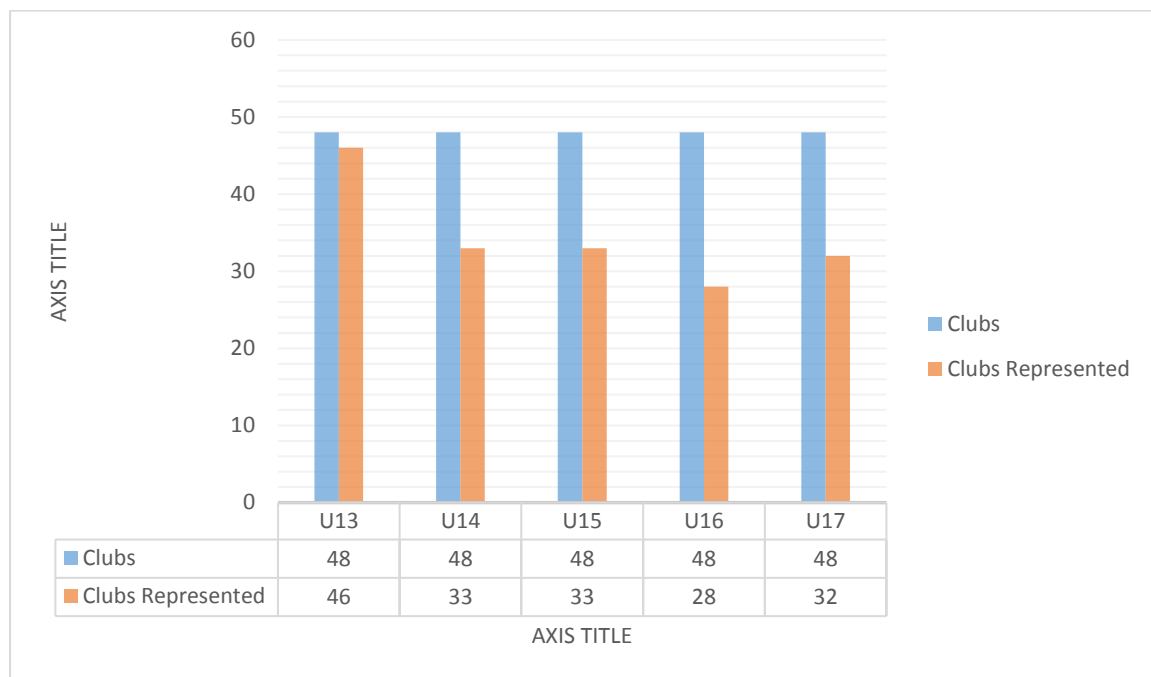


Figure 4 Clubs Represented on final Academy Squads *note U13 no panel is selected

U13 School of Hurling & Football

Towards the end of 2015 the County Games Development Committee launched a program to facilitate U13 hurling and football players. The aim was to provide skill development and game specific opportunities for all players who attended. The county wide project has enabled games development to ID Talent at a much younger age and provide top quality coaching sessions in both hurling and football.

This year **Gerry Moran** took on the coordination of the project that has seen over 120 players participate from clubs right throughout the county. Next year we hope to further enhance this by building on the progress made in 2017.

Academy Squads

Over the next few weeks the games development team will be meeting all managers. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss details of all field activities which will include dates of training sessions and challenge games & ongoing trials. We will be implementing key principals from the Leinster GAA Turas program as well as building on enhancing our program through our review.

As always the tremendous progress of our players through the squad system is only made possible by the dedication of the coaches. I would appeal to every club to contribute by not only providing players, but also encouraging coaches to consider a role in the academy process. While we have certain criteria

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in terms of coaching experience it is an exciting area to test yourself as a coach as well as getting the necessary supports to continually improve.

We must ensure that we see the academy squad structure as an extension & support to club & school activity. The focus of academies is not to interfere or hinder club preparations. The goal is to provide a pathway for players to be given the supports necessary to reach their full potential. For this to take place it is essential that we continue to support our players entering the squad system but ensuring clubs and schools are at the forefront.

To the coaches and managers who have worked with us over the last number of years and who may be moving on from working with our academies we would like to thank them for the huge effort they have put in. A lot of work is often unnoticed and goes above and beyond the realm of what is expected.

Lastly a huge thank you to **Anthony Neville Homes Ltd** whose sponsorship this year made a huge difference. Each year there is a huge cost in running the twelve squads and this year the overall investment was significantly increased. The Neville family have a long tradition of supporting Wexford GAA and the unique aspect of funding youth sport is something many counties would envy.

Participation Development Initiatives



Figure 5 Participation Development Initiatives

Wexford G&GD seen over a **100% increase** from attendance figures, rising from 2,800 to 5,700 in a three year period. 50 camps ran over the course of the summer with **120 coaches, 12 supervisors and countless volunteers**

We partnered with **Wexford People** paper to launch a **Super Games Skills** competition to promote skills at the camps. Children were challenged to improve their skills and compete for a place in Innovate Wexford Park. I would like to thank **Adrian Ryan** who ran this program that led to a Super Skills Camp at the end of the summer.

Overall 2017 was a very successful year with regards to **Cúl Camps** and gives us a great platform to build on going forward. Next year we are looking at getting near all clubs hosting a camp.

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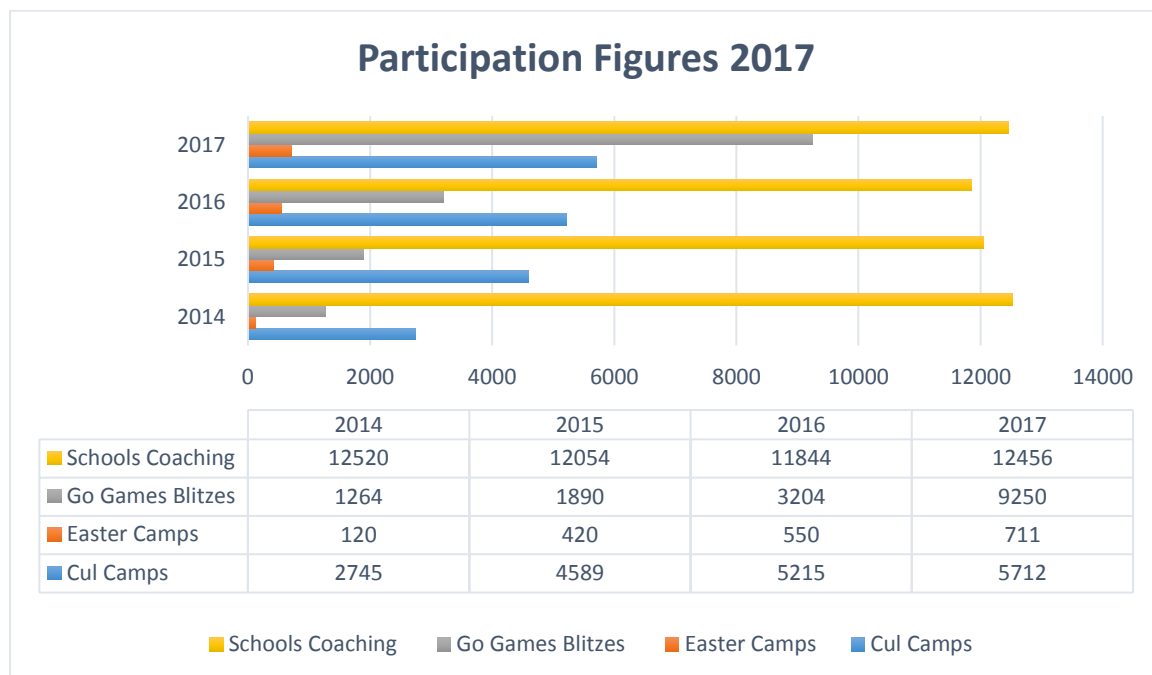
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Our Easter Camps ran in **Wexford Park and Geraldine O Hanrahan's, Enniscorthy & Bunclody & Gorey** with an attendance of over 711 children (increase of 250 children from 2016). Next year we hope to continue these camps through our GPO's and identifying other clubs who want to start their own.

The importance of the Cúl Camps cannot be overstated; the camps bring children to our club fields for a week of activities and learning, and foster an association of fun with our games which encourages our children to participate in our activities.

With over 80% of our bookings now online it makes our jobs easier in predicting the amount of gear necessary. We were fortunate in 2017 that issues around extra gear was avoided through new protocols brought in from 2016. 2018 Croke Park will be launching a partnership with An Post. This will give parents the option to have their kit delivered to their house for an extra €5.



Cul Camp Key Facts

1. 120 coaches employed
2. €85,450 wages paid to coaches. Directly impacting on local economy and employment.
3. 65% of coaches have intercounty experience at under-age and U21 level between GAA, Ladies football and Camogie
4. 50 skills tests were conducted with over 1,200 children taking part and 160 invited into a Super Skills day.
5. 33% of primary school going children attend GAA Cúl Camps in Wexford.
6. 40,000 flyers were distributed through schools, print media and local events.
7. 21% of attendees said they signed up by seeing the advertisements from social media accounts

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Wexford Sports Active & County Council

The assistance of the Wexford County Council particularly **Fran Ronan** cannot be underestimated. During the year we run many events that need the assistance of the local authorities. Events such as Hurling on the Quay & Easter Camps would not take place without their assistance. We were delighted to partner with them in the running of the **Fun in the Sun & Community Coaching** project and we hope our partnership will continue to grow. Through **Alan Monaghan** we have been able to provide support to many inclusion initiatives such as coaching in Our Lady of Fatima School & Slaneyside Superstars. Our coaches **Podge Courtney & Paul Roche** have ably assisted & I thank them all for their continued efforts.

CE Coaching Scheme

We are very fortunate to have a high quality of coaches currently working on the **CE Coaching Scheme**. This provides endless hours of Gaelic Games for our children in the primary schools as well as working on our Cúl Camps. A special mention to **Denis Doyle** who has successfully coordinated the program over the last number of years.

Coaching & Games Staff

Over the last year our **GDA Peter Hally** moved to Laois GAA. Although Peter only worked for a short time he left a huge impact on the volunteers and clubs he interacted with. I wish him the very best over his future career. Our team now consists of **Shane O Hanlon, Diarmuid Byrne, Willie Cleary, Anthony Masterson, (GDA's) Aoife Murphy, Ray Harris & Frank Devereux (GPO's). Marion Doyle** works as a support to our games development team and is a constant array of knowledge and guidance to all. The work ethic of all our staff is exceptional. They all work unsocial hours and involved in numerous projects in the promotion of Gaelic Games.

Conclusions

Over the last few weeks C&GD have embarked upon a **comprehensive planning exercise for 2018** to ensure that we continue to support all the stakeholders in our games to attain highest possible standards. In 2018 our key projects will be **Club Engagement, GO Games & Primary School** programs.

We have received tremendous support from all of the Coaching and Games Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members from, **Bord Na nÓg, Rackard League, Secondary School Committee, hurling & football advisory boards, the full time staff, Interns & our primary school coaches**. The committee all help to ensure that projects and initiatives are run efficiently and align with the needs of the various boards and functions of the associations.

Lastly we must all ensure that the coaching & games activities in your club are active. This should be top priority & is the starting point to ensuring future success.

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