



Coláiste Dún Iascaigh



Extra-Curricular Activities (Team Sports) and Team Selection Policy

2025-2026

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Introduction

At our school, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) program reflects our school motto: "**Learning Together to Achieve and Succeed.**" Through this policy, we aim to ensure that students are provided with equal opportunities to participate, grow, and thrive outside the classroom.

The core values of **Excellence, Care, Respect, Equality, and Community** are embedded in every aspect of our ECA program. These values guide and underpin our relationships in school.

Our policy promotes enjoyment, participation, and development while maintaining the highest standards of conduct, discipline, and representation for the school community.

Policy Rationale

Extra-curricular activities are an essential part of the educational experience at our school. These activities:

- Encourage social skills and teamwork
- Promote physical and emotional well-being
- Develop talents and interests beyond the classroom
- Instil lifelong values such as resilience, respect, and sportsmanship

Our ECA program for sports and games is based on the **voluntary co-operation** of our school staff and this program provides students with the opportunity to discover and nurture their unique gifts while learning essential life skills.

However, there are limits to the resources the school can provide on a voluntary basis to participation of teams in competitions and while the school will endeavour to give opportunities for students to participate in ECA's this may not always be possible.

Team Selection Criteria

Selection for ECA teams is based on many factors. Coaches and staff assess students on the following criteria:

1. **Aptitude, Skills, and Tactics:** Performance in training sessions showcasing knowledge and application of skills.
2. **Attitude:** Positive behaviour, effort, and commitment to representing the Coláiste.
3. **Understanding of the Game:** Knowledge of rules, strategies, and tactical awareness.
4. **Enthusiasm and Desire to Improve:** Willingness to learn, practice, and develop as a player and teammate.
5. **Performance and Effort:** Contribution during training and lessons, demonstrating consistent commitment.

6. **Commitment to Training:** Regular attendance and active participation in team training.
7. **Fitness and Readiness:** Maintaining general fitness and readiness to participate competitively.
8. **Emotional Maturity:** Coping with pressure, setbacks, and competition outcomes maturely and respectfully.
9. **Safety Awareness:** Recognising the importance of personal and team safety in every activity.
10. **Academic Progress and Attendance:** Displaying a commitment to high standards of participation in the academic life of the school and school attendance.

Students may not be selected if they fail to meet the above expectations.

Health and Safety Guidelines

Student safety is paramount in all extra-curricular activities. The following procedures are mandatory:

- **First Aid:** Kits are available on-site and must accompany all external activities.
 - **Safe Environment:** Activities occur in a controlled and hazard-free setting.
 - **Supervision:** Adequate staff supervision is provided, with at least two staff members accompanying teams off-site.
 - **Transport:** Approved, insured transport is arranged for all off-site events.
 - **Uniform and Gear:** Official school PE uniform and appropriate gear must be worn.
 - **Equipment Maintenance:** Teachers ensure sports equipment is safe, clean, and ready for use.
 - **Medical Needs:** Parents must disclose any medical conditions. Required medication must accompany the student. Essential medical equipment (EpiPen, diabetes kits, Buccolam) must be carried during outings. Students with hearing aids must have appropriate support equipment available.
 - **Permission Slips:** Must be signed by parents/guardians for each ECA activity.
 - **Insurance:** All students are covered by the school's 24-hour personal accident insurance.
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Supervision and Safeguarding

Supervision levels are determined by the activity's nature, duration, and participants' age. Ratios are adjusted accordingly:

- **Home and Away Matches:** A minimum of two staff members travels with teams.
- **Gender-Specific Supervision:** Male supervisors accompany boys' teams; female supervisors accompany girls' teams. Mixed teams require both.

All staff and volunteers comply with child safeguarding policies, ensuring student safety and well-being.

ECA Procedures

Planning and Approval

- Submit the Extra-Curricular Activity Form to the Deputy Principal for approval a week in advance to include time students are leaving school and returning to school.
- Calendar will be updated on shared staff calendar by Deputy Principal.
- Issue permission slip to parents/guardian.
- Arrange transport and necessary contributions if appropriate.
- Set up a team on VSware and Microsoft Teams and record attendance on Vsware and amend attendance if student unable to travel.

During the Event

- Maintain appropriate staff-to-student ratios.
- Follow approved travel arrangements.
- Mobile Phones to be pouched travelling to and from games and at events.
- Ensure dressing rooms are left spotless after all games and jerseys are presented back in number order to coaches when called.
- Report accidents or incidents immediately.

Post-Event

- Submit incident or accident reports.
- Submit photographs for school Public Relations communications.
- Address any disciplinary matters in line with the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Washing and returning of gear is to be organised by the ECA staff member.
- Equipment is to be stored in the locked container by the astro or in the locked pe storeroom.

Selection Notification

- Panels are announced in advance through verbal announcements after training, notice boards or MS Teams messages.
- Students/parents must respect selection decisions and school staff should not be contacted during out of school hours.

- Staff will do their best to provide feedback to students about selection decisions during school day or at training sessions.
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Roles and Responsibilities

School Management

- Ensure effective policy implementation and review.
- Support staff and coaches.
- Communicate expectations that school has of parents/guardians in relation to school sports teams.
- Address parental complaints.

ECA Co-Ordinator:

- Co-ordinate all training sessions to ensure no overlaps where possible.
- Issue Weekly Notices of events to school community.
- Liaise with school Health and Safety officer to ensure adequate first aid equipment is on site at all times.
- Draw up a list of students participating in all ECA team sports at the start of the year.
- Organise yearly clubs and societies day.
- Review and update school ECA Policy.

Staff and Coaches

- Implement ECA policy and maintain records of participation and incidents.
- Encourage students participating in ECA's to maintain academic excellence and it is a privilege to represent our school in ECA's.
- Monitor behaviour and report issues to school management.
- Staff involved can reward students **TWICE** per year on VSware for their contribution to ECA's. (1,2 or 5 points).
- Communicate with colleagues and ECA co-ordinator to ensure sports training and matches do not clash where possible.
- In event of training/match being cancelled please inform students/parents via vsmail before 11am.

Parents and Guardians

- Understand and support the policy.
- Provide relevant medical information.
- Check VSware parent App regularly for communications example cancellation of training/matches.
- Encourage your son/daughter to participate and respect the schools ECA program.

- Remind your son/daughter that maintaining academic excellence is still important while having the privilege to represent our school in ECA's.
- Respect and accept the selection decisions of school staff for ECA's. Staff members are not to be contacted directly by parents/guardians to question selection decisions.
- Any parental concern including team selection to be communicated directly to school Principal.

Students

- Follow all instructions and school rules during games and ECAs.
- Show respect to fellow competitors/officials and any premises attended during a games trip.
- Attend training consistently; valid reasons must be given for absence.
- Books, classroom materials and homework should be in school every day as matches do get cancelled due to weather etc
- Catch up on academic work missed due to participation in ECA's.
- Communicate with school staff/coaches if not able to attend training or matches in person or through MS Teams.

Behaviour, Discipline, and Withdrawal

All students participating in ECAs are bound by the school's **Code of Behaviour**. Misconduct during any ECA may lead to disciplinary action, including:

- **Temporary or permanent removal** from a team or activity.
- **Exclusion** from future events if behaviour standards are not met.

Participation in ECAs is a **privilege** that can be withdrawn by school management in consultation with staff involved in ECA's.

Incidents of a serious nature during games resulting in bringing the reputation of the school in disrepute may result in team being withdrawn from competition or individual students receiving further sanctions as per Code of Behaviour.

Number of Extra-Curricular Activities Per Student

1st Year – TY : Unlimited participation if classwork remains up to date.

5th Year – 6th Year: Students are advised to limit participation to two team sports (Rugby, Camogie, Hurling, Soccer, Football, Basketball).

This structure balances academic priorities with sporting commitments and encourages dedication.

Conclusion

Our ECA and Sports Team Selection Policy ensures that participation in school activities is fair, safe, and enriching for all students. By outlining clear expectations, roles, and responsibilities, the policy promotes excellence, teamwork, and respect within our school community.

We expect every participant - students, staff, and parents - to uphold the values of **Excellence, Care, Respect, Equality, and Community** in every extra-curricular activity.
