



## What is a School Club Link?

School Club Links aim to create many opportunities for young people to compete inside and outside of school.

Establishing school/club links give young people the opportunity to participate in worthwhile sporting and physical activity throughout their lives. It allows youngsters to try out new sports, feel comfortable in a club setting and as a result make them more likely to continue participating once they leave school.

School club links are an agreement between a school and a community-based sports club to:

- Work together
- Meet the needs of young people
- Provide new and varied opportunities
- Help in realising ambitions

Most communities do not know what clubs are in their area – personal contact is the best way to promote your club. Posters are not enough! Creating partnerships between schools and clubs helps to create continuity between school sports and sport in the wider community.

Youngsters are more likely to get involved if they know what they're dealing with – if they have already seen club coaches in the familiar surroundings of their school, they are more likely to attend the club! (As they already know the coach!) Schools and clubs can work together to promote local sporting opportunities much more effectively.

### The benefits if you are a Club:

- More young people in the club
- Increased participation in the club
- Raised base level participation in club
- Opportunity to identify talent of the future
- Potential access to school facilities and equipment
- Raised profile within the sport
- Raised profile within the community
- Financial opportunities
- Opening up club access to wider community
- Increase the potential to recruit new volunteers
- Co-operation, support and resources from other partners
- Pool of young leaders, coaches and officials of the future

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### **The benefits if you are a School:**

- More active and healthier pupils
- Raised profile within the community
- Increased funding opportunities
- Community Links – social benefits
- Pathways for sport – easy exit routes for children into on-going involvement
- Increased standard in school teams due to increased coaching received by pupils
- Recognition as an institution that supports development beyond the school environment (Value Added)
- Support and assistance with extra-curricular teams/activities

### **The benefits if you are a Young Person:**

- Improved opportunities to access sport in the local community
- Opportunity for talent to be identified and nurtured
- Wider range of sporting opportunities
- Move confidently between school and club
- Opportunity to develop coaching and leadership skills
- Understand how experiences in school and at the club complement each other
- Recognise how PE prepares them for involvement in clubs at junior age and beyond
- Introduction to healthy living
- Feel comfortable with a range of people from different backgrounds and of different ages
- Choose club programmes that are suited to them

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