

## JOB DESCRIPTION

# Academy Athletic Development Lead

Football and hurling, U15 to U17

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| Reports to      | Head of Athletic Performance                                                                                                      |
| Responsible for | Academy athletic development coaches, assistants and student placements, both codes                                               |
| Scope           | U15, U16, minor (U17), in football and hurling                                                                                    |
| Based at        | Owenbeg Centre of Excellence, with travel across the county. Planning, programming and administrative work can be done from home. |
| Hours           | Full-time, including evenings and weekends as required by the academy schedule                                                    |
| Salary          | To be confirmed                                                                                                                   |
| Clearances      | Enhanced AccessNI and GAA Safeguarding 1, before commencing                                                                       |

## Purpose of the role

This post leads athletic development across the academy, from U15 to U17, in both football and hurling. The postholder builds and develops the academy coaching group, holds the physical development standards at every age group, and makes sure players moving into U20 and senior squads are already prepared for what is asked of them there.

The post is accountable for three things: consistent athletic development from U15 to U17 in both codes, the quality of the academy coaching group, and the physical readiness of players arriving at the top of the pathway. It is a leadership post. The expectation is that the postholder shapes how athletic development is delivered across the academy, not that they deliver every session themselves.

## Key responsibilities

### Programme and delivery

- Manage the athletic development pathway and curriculum for all academy activity, U15 to Minor, across football and hurling
- Oversee at U15 and U16, and hands-on delivery at minor within agreed parameters
- Keep session structure, terminology and standards consistent at every age group, and maintain the academy resource library

### Coach development

- Lead, manage and develop the academy athletic development coaches across both codes

- Induct new academy coaches, run regular workshops, and observe sessions in person on a planned cycle
- Assist the Head of Athletic Performance in overseeing student placements and early career coaches

### **Testing, data and monitoring**

- Own the academy testing calendar and ensure procedures are applied the same way at every level
- Monitor growth and maturation at U15 to U17 and adjust training load accordingly
- Create and maintain centralised data collection and analysis systems for player performance monitoring
- Oversee the use of GPS, force plates and athlete management systems within the academy

### **Integration and standards**

- Work with medical staff so that injury management and return to play follow one framework at every level
- Oversee and manage the integration of nutrition, psychology and sports science across academy squads
- Manage the physical handover of players moving between squads and into the senior environment

### **The wider pathway**

- Ensure players coming out of the academy are athletically equipped to play inter-county football and hurling
- Support clubs and schools to adopt the same athletic development principles and improve the athletic pool of talent in the county

### **The person**

- A minimum of 3 years' experience in athletic development within academy or pathway structures
- Degree equivalent (or higher) in sports science, strength and conditioning, athletic development or a related performance discipline
- An understanding of the GAA and how it works, across both codes
- Full driving licence and own transport

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is taken seriously and the postholder is expected to work to the relevant policies at all times. Enhanced AccessNI disclosure and GAA Safeguarding 1 are required before commencing, together with a signed GAA Code of Behaviour, Underage. First aid certification is required, or to be completed on appointment.

## **General**

These duties and responsibilities should be regarded as neither exclusive nor exhaustive. The postholder may be asked to undertake other reasonably determined duties appropriate to the post, without changing its character. Appointment is subject to satisfactory references and proof of eligibility to work.