

My First.....

TIME TO RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

“Remember that just as football is a team sport on the pitch it is also a team sport off the pitch.”

Volunteers are the most valuable asset to any club and it is essential that clubs value the time and dedication shown by these people throughout the country. A volunteer is someone who gives time, energy and talents to others, expecting nothing in return. Volunteering is about giving your time to partake in activities that benefit others but the most important thing to remember is that people should have fun and enjoy their role as a volunteer.

Why do People Volunteer?

- Because they were ASKed
- Because they, their friends or family are involved in the sport
- To meet new people or develop new social networks

It is important to recognise why people volunteer and what they can gain personally through volunteering. These benefits can be emphasised when recruiting volunteers for your club:

- a. give back to the sport or the club;
- b. use their existing skills and learn new skills;
- c. social and family involvement;
- d. develop new interests;
- e. take on new responsibilities;
- f. enable other people to participate;
- g. know that they're making a difference - have a sense of personal achievement;
- h. be part of a team;
- i. build self confidence/self esteem;
- j. doing something worthwhile;
- k. gain relevant experience;
- l. to have fun!

Consider the following questions in relation to your own club:

- what volunteers do you need?
- what skills do these roles need?
- what will be the (time) commitment for them?
- do you check or screen the volunteers?
- do new volunteers get an introduction to the club?

Inviting People to Volunteer

- Best way to recruit volunteers is to ask people to help
- Be enthusiastic and sincere. This is more important than technique!
- Be clear about what you want people to do and use written role descriptions where possible with time commitment included
- Define the support and training the volunteer will have
- Outline the benefits of volunteering for your club
- Explain why you decided to approach this particular person – skills or personality traits
- Remember you never insult someone by asking them to volunteer, rather you are usually flattering them by implying they have the talent for the job
- Keep in mind that you are offering someone a positive opportunity, not grovelling for a favour



Keys to Success

- **RECRUIT** the right people for the right job
- **RETAIN** them by providing good support in the form of role descriptions, clear briefs, mentoring and training
- **REWARD** what they are doing through appropriate acknowledgement and 'perks' (which will rarely be financial!)

Most people running clubs are doing so in their own time for the love of it! – remember a 'Thank You' goes a long way!!

Sometimes people are too shy to volunteer, but love to be asked!!

SO ASK

People are often more keen to become involved if a time limit is given and they know how long they are volunteering e.g. "can you help us for the next 6 weeks?"

Success breeds success. Older players can help support the juvenile section and this tradition can continue with the club. It is built in club structure

VOLUNTEER CHARTER



Supporting you, Supporting us!

Ladies Gaelic Football Association will ensure that volunteers will be.....

- ✦ Appreciated and have their voluntary contribution recognised
- ✦ Provided with supervision and support through a designated mentor system
- ✦ Provided with safe working conditions and offered appropriate training for their specific role
- ✦ Respected by all members of the Association
- ✦ Enriched from their experience in a fulfilling and positive manner

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association asks of volunteers.....

- ✦ To respect the values and aims of the Association as outlined in our Strategic Plan and Code of Ethics and Good Practice
- ✦ To be reliable and committed to their role
- ✦ To attend essential training and support sessions

Becoming a volunteer.....

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association welcome people who are interested in volunteering on a regular, intermittent or on a one-off basis with any of the below skills:

Administration	Project Management	Refereeing
Website design and maintenance	Leadership	Supervision
Fund-raising	Journalism	First Aid