GAELIC GAMES FEMALE REFEREE ACADEMY

Don't miss this unique opportunity to develop your refereeing skills. The Female Referee Academy aims to increase the number of women officiating in Gaelic Games by providing a programme that supports their development as officials. Places are limited.

Open to ambitious females 18-45 years within the Gaelic Games family of GAA, LGFA and Camogie. Minimum 3 years refereeing U13+

WHY ARE YOU DOING THE PROJECT AND WHY NOW?

Anecdotally it is understood that the number of females officiating across the Gaelic games family is low. Having a joint female officials academy highlights to the members the collaboration that can be done at all levels across all codes.

WHO IS THE INITIATIVE FOR?

This initiative is aimed at recruiting, training and mentoring females, 18 years of age and older, from any socio-economic background. The participants should ideally have 3 years' experience refereeing competitive games from U13+. Participants must be willing to learn and develop as an official within their county and region.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Technical, Physical, Mental and Tactical Development
- Knowledge of the Playing Rules
- Leadership Skills
- Managing Conflict as a Referee
- Goalsetting
- Self-reflection as a Match Official
- Teamwork

All participants on the Academy will be assigned a mentor for the duration of the Programme.

WHEN & WHERE?

First session takes place in person in Dublin. This will be followed by a combination of online sessions and in-person sessions in regional venues.

HOW TO APPLY?

Applications available at www.ladiesgaelic.ie, www.camogie.ie and www.gaa.ie

CONTACT

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Mike Henchy, GAA Club Referee Development Lead mike.henchy@gaa.ie

CLOSING DATE

Tuesday 31st March 2026

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG
LGFA PEIL na mBAN
THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION An Cumann Camógaíochta
SPÓRT ÉIREANN SPORT IRELAND

ABOUT THIS PROGRAMME

The Female Referee Academy has been devised to develop aspiring female referees aged 18+ years within the Gaelic Games Family and this will be delivered in 2025. The aim is to increase the number of women officiating within Gaelic Games by providing a programme that supports their development as officials.

The initiative welcomes referees from all counties and all Gaelic Games codes to take part.

The course consists of 7 contact days, with 4 days taking place face-to-face with the remaining dates taking place online.

There will be a focus on Technical, Physical, Mental and Tactical development whilst also providing practical referee experience on top of ongoing support and advice from mentors. Participants will have to attend games and events as part of their practical experience.

Participants cannot be on a Provincial or National Referee Panel but must be currently refereeing in their county. The participants do not need significant experience but ideally have 3 years' experience refereeing competitive games from U13+. Participants must be willing to learn and develop as an official within their county and region.

Candidates can apply directly through the link provided and we will then get references and sign off on your application from your county board. All candidates must be committed to attending all workshops as attendance is compulsory throughout in order to graduate.

PROGRAMME BENEFITS

- Engage with like-minded officials across the Gaelic Games Family
- Confidence in your own abilities through practical learning and application
- Enhanced communication skills as an official
- Techniques to motivate and inspire you and your team of officials
- Training and advice from experienced trainers and officials
- Practical opportunities at numerous levels and events
- Feedback and support from assigned mentor

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

By the end of this programme, Participants will:

- Display a willingness to act as a role model for future aspiring officials
- Have a full knowledge of the rules of their chosen sport
- Be actively involved in practical referee experiences
- Set clear goals for themselves - long, medium- and short-term goals
- Have a greater ability to deal with conflict
- Know how to work as a team and have the skill set to act in any of the match official roles (Referee, linesperson, umpire and 4th official)
- Display basic psychology skills (preparing for a game & controlling the controllable)
- Represent their club and county as an official
- Represent their club and county as a match official

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Participants must be available for all dates of modules and will have mentor assigned for their journey.

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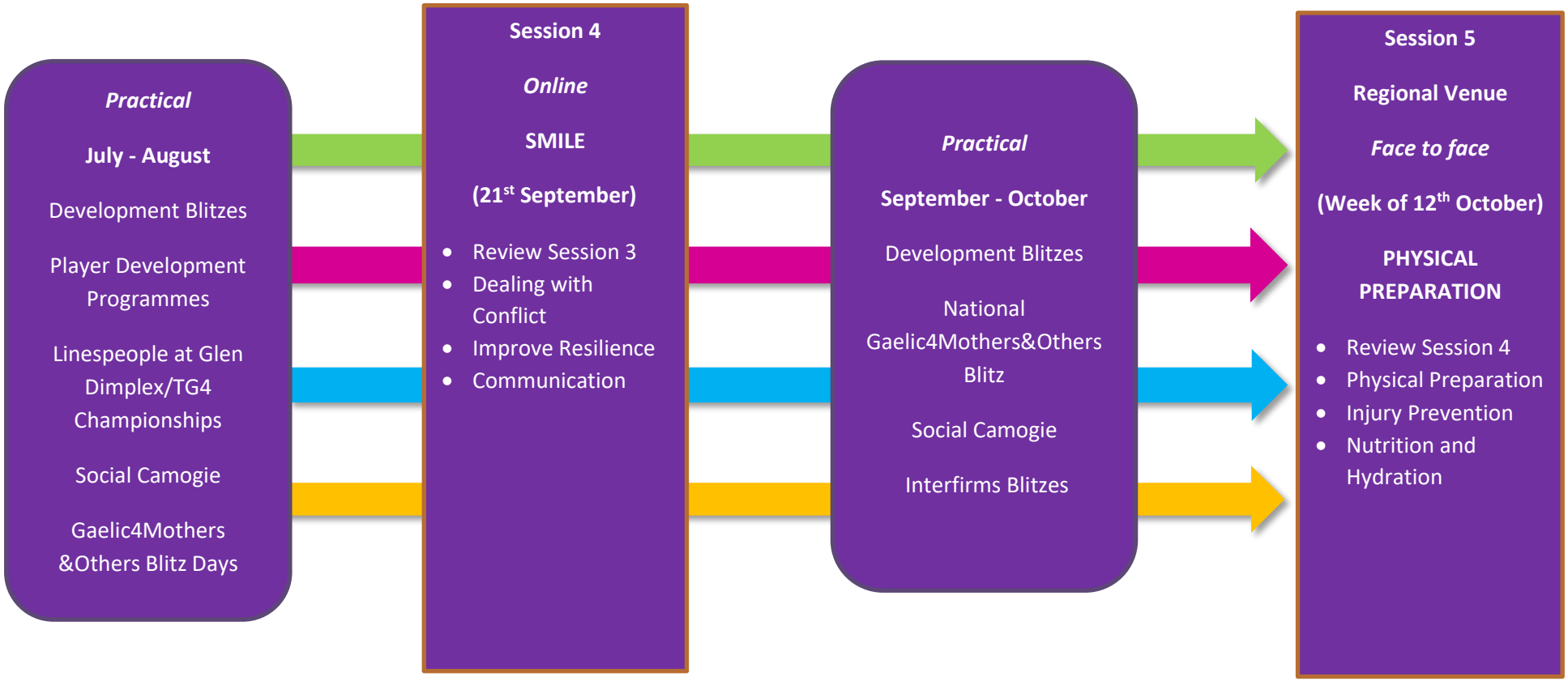
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)



Mentoring – A mentor will be assigned to Participant

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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

Session 6

Online

GAME MANAGEMENT

(9th November)

- Review Session 5
- Get in Position
- Decision Making
- Adapting
- The Whistle

Session 7

Dublin

Face to face

(28th November)

GRADUATION

- Review Programme
- Wrap up of rules
- Self-Reflection
- My Referee Pathway
- Graduation

Mentoring – A mentor will be assigned to

REFEREE MINI-SERIES WEBINARS

There will be two online talks with experienced referees covering the following:

- Referee pathway, balancing playing and being a referee, and your fitness regime
- Communication with mentors and players

Session 1

Referee pathway, balancing playing and being a referee, and your fitness regime

27th May

30-45 mins via Zoom

Session 2

Communication with mentors and players

16th July

30-45 mins via Zoom