

Coaching & Coach Education Report 2021

Squads - Boys

All youth sessions have been outdoors due to Covid restrictions.

Some highlights:

- Under 13 & Under 15 sessions held in May, followed by trial matches in June.
- Outdoor sessions split between northside in Balbriggan and southside in Merrion, generally worked well for all age groups
- School of Excellence held in Phoenix in July – great levels of participation and thanks to Ronan and Donal O’Sullivan for their support.
- Sessions held throughout school holidays and mid-term breaks with significant numbers participating across all age groups.
- IP competitions completed across all age groups with CL teams continuing to perform strongly in line with our track record of producing strong cricketers over recent years.

Squads - Girls

A broad-based programme took place despite the limitations imposed by Covid restrictions.

- Age groups included U19s this year due to many U17s missing out in 2020 and moving up an age group.
- Sessions held throughout school holidays and mid-term breaks with significant numbers participating across all age groups.
- U13s received sessions in May 2021, a 4 day camp in July followed by a trial match and one match against the NWCU and two against the NCU team. We also ran the Fifty Ball League again.
- U15s had a 4-day camp in July followed by a trial match and one match against the NWCU and two against the NCU.
- U17s had a trial match followed by the CI Girls IPs where we had 2 teams entered. Our first team won this competition.
- U19s played one match against the NWCU Senior Women's team.
- In all the matches against the other provinces there was only one loss and one abandoned match. All others went Leinster's way.

Coach Education

A very challenging year in which to deliver coaching courses - there was a particular emphasis on increasing the participation of girls and women in the coach education courses to underpin the expansion and development of the women's game.

Coaching Kids 5 - 11 Course: This course was split into two parts. One session on-line and one in-person. Total attendance was 74 (38 male & 36 female). There are over 30 participants still awaiting completion of the part 2 in person session, and it is planned to complete these before the end of 2021.

Coaching Cricket Course: This course was split into 4 parts - 2 online sessions, one in-person session and an assessment session in-person as well. The coach education team completed 2 sets of Part 1&2 online and 1 outdoor in-person Part 3&4. There are a dozen candidates from these courses awaiting completion, and the plan is also to complete these before the end of 2021.



The delivery of these courses in a blended format offers more flexibility for attendees, and there was some positive feedback in this regard. Certain elements of the two courses lend themselves to on-line delivery and others don't. The delivery options are currently being reviewed and there may be some tweaking required if the blended approach is to be continued long-term. Great credit is due to the tutors and assessors for delivering as much of the programmes as they did, under very difficult circumstances.

ECB Coaching Children / Coaching Young People & Adults Courses: The last of these was held in February 2020. Each session is a residential week-end. Some of the candidates that signed up for that course have since completed their assessment. However, there is still some uncertainty surrounding the issuing of certificates of completion. The status of Cricket Ireland as a recognised centre for delivery of this course, as accredited by the UK's First4Sport was being regularised prior to the departure of the CI Coach Development Manager in October 2020. Pending the appointment of a replacement, there is still some uncertainty regarding our status. This is further complicated by the ECB initiative to update these courses, and the content of the revised courses have not yet been communicated to us.

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