

Physical Activity & Sport for Young People

2010

Community Games supports

In 2010, two groups were supported: -

- **Rhode** - 68 participated in Community Games Athletics, and Rhode were supported in strengthening their Community Games area.
- **Killeigh** - 98 participated in Community Games Athletics, and Killeigh Community Games was re-established.

Both these areas had the largest turnouts at county games finals and a number of the participants have joined mainstream clubs as a result.

2008 - 2010

Play Day

Play Day is the national day of play for preschool children hosted by Offaly County Council and the Offaly County Childcare Committee; and supported by Offaly Sports Partnership and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The Partnership has been involved in the delivery of Play Days, and typically provides mini sport activities as part of the Play Day programme. Almost 400 families have participated in Offaly's Play Days every year.

2008

Two physical activity and sport programmes were delivered for young people in 2008: -

1. Summer athletics

Over three hundred children participated in the programme which was led out by two students on placement, Emma Bunworth and Trína McNicholas, and supported by three additional coaches.

Weather conditions and summer holiday interruptions proved problematic; however this project represents a small first step in starting a process of rejuvenating juvenile athletics in the county.

The Games Promotion Officer of Offaly GAA, John Leahy also recognised that the additional fitness training and out of season opportunities in a complementary sport was mutually beneficial to strengthening the native games.

2. Tag & Mini Rugby

In October 2007, a steering group came together to develop a project to increase the level of participation in tag rugby.

In order to achieve the aims of the project, both the Connaught and Leinster branches of the Irish Rugby Football Union were invited to work in conjunction with Offaly Community Games on this project.

A six week training programme was developed and expressions of interest were sought from the twelve community games areas in Offaly. Of the twelve areas contacted, nine expressed interest in the programme. Banagher who at the time were not members of Offaly Community Games also expressed interest in the programme and were invited on board.

As part of the programme, each area received a tag rugby training kit, and a copy of the six week training programme which was rolled out with the assistance of local clubs and coaches starting on the 14th April and concluding on the 17th May. Over 350 children participated in the programme, an increase of 230 children from the 2007 season.