



2023 - 8th Annual Athy Rugby Camp-Out



Advance Event Briefing

This document is intended to give Coaches and Parents a preliminary update on the Event to allow everyone to make the arrangements that will help to make this an enjoyable, memorable experience for all.

Overview of Event

The 2023 Athy Rugby Camp-Out will see between 60 - 80 squads of young players drawn from all 4 Provinces of Ireland participating in Rugby Blitzes, Fun Team-Building Activities and an Overnight Camp-Out and the whole purpose of the Event is to give the children in attendance a memorable and enjoyable experience.

In addition to the 800 players, we expect to have a further 300 children and 500 Adults in attendance so a clear schedule is required.

To give you all a flavour of how the Event will run, the following is a Draft Schedule:-

Time	Activity
Saturday 15th April 2023	
12:00 – 12:30	Teams Arrive (Ample Parking for all)
12:30 – 12:45	Registration – Coaches receive Briefing Packs / Meal Vouchers
13:00 – 13:30	Coaches & Referees Briefing
14:00 – 17:00	Rugby Blitzes
16:30 – 18:00	Evening Meal (overlaps with rugby as 50% of Teams finish at 16:30)
18:00 – 19:00	Teams set up tents & Some activities will commence
19:00 – 21:00	Fun Team-Building Games / Activities. Each age group will be split into Sub-Groups and will rotate through 5 Activity Stations
21:00 – 22:00	Kids Disco (Clubhouse open for Adults 9.30pm – 12pm)
Midnight	Lights Out
Sunday 16th April 2023	
07:00 – 11:00	Rise and shine – Breakfast (Optional and must be pre-ordered)
11:00 – 13:00	Close out and Departure

Pre-Event Information

To help us to plan for the Event, we will be sending you out a link to an online survey and asking for you all to come back to us with confirmed details of numbers attending etc by the 1st of April, (See Below in the **Let us Know** Section). We will then be able to finalise the plans and will forward further specific information to you approximately 7 Days in advance of the event, i.e. 8th of April, to include:-

- Full Schedule for your team with Schedule of matches and Activities
- Site Layout Map with details of your allocated Warm-Up / Bag-Drop Area, Pitches and Camping Area
- Blitz Rules to ensure consistent application of age-grade rules to ensure maximum enjoyment for ALL participants, whatever their level of ability or size.

Registration / Event Briefing

Following Registration, where Coaches receive their vouchers and printed schedules, a full Briefing will be given on the day from 1pm - 1.30pm to a representative of each squad and Referees to ensure that everyone is clear on how the Event will be run. Each Coach and Referee will be given a Briefing Pack that will include Vouchers for Meals and a number of free Tea / Coffee Vouchers for Coaches.

Payment for Breakfasts / Additional Evening Meals can be settled at that time if not already done.

The Blitz

Each Team will play 4 matches of 7½ minutes per half. We will endeavour to ensure that Clubs mainly play against Teams from other parts of the country that they would not normally get to play against as we see this as one of the most attractive features of the Event.

The Blitzes will be played in accordance with the I.R.F.U. Guidelines and we will include Blitz Guidelines in the Briefing Pack to ensure that all teams are operating to consistent Rules / Interpretations and with the agreed ambition to ensure that all players, whatever their size or levels of ability, enjoy the games.

There will be **neutral Referees** for the matches and each Club participating must have a minimum of 1 Coach for every 2 Teams who can Referee matches. The schedule will include details of which Club must provide the Referee for each match. Effectively, you will need to provide a Referee for 2 Matches per Team during the Blitz.

This does impose some obligation on teams but we have found in previous years that it greatly elevates the standard of the blitz.

Evening Meal

The main meal will be provided in 2 waves, with 50% of the Teams finishing the Blitz at 4.30pm and the others finishing at 5pm.

The meal will consist of a choice of Chicken Curry with Rice, Lasagne or Bangers & Mash. Bread Rolls and Drinks will also be provided. Let us know in advance if you have anyone with **special dietary requirements** / allergies so that we can make provision for them.

The Squad Entry Fee covers 12 x Child Meals and 4 x Adult Meals per Squad and vouchers for these will be given to Coaches at the Event Briefing for distribution.

Families and additional attendees are very much welcome to join us and additional meals can be purchased on the day at a cost of €7 per person. There is no other cost for activities / camping for additional attendees as we very much want this to be a family experience where possible.

We are eager to have a rough idea in advance of how many people we will have to cater for and would ask that you come back to us, as outlined below, with the most accurate numbers that you have of people attending. Payments for additional meals can be taken at registration.

Please advise us in advance of any special dietary requirements / allergies.

Breakfast

For Breakfast on the Sunday morning we will have Bacon & Sausage Breakfast Rolls with a choice of Tea / Coffee / Juice available from 7am at a cost of €7 per person, (not included in entry fee).

Please note that the Breakfasts must be ordered by Coaches in advance although they can be paid for on arrival on the Saturday. It would be ideal if Coaches could advise on how many Breakfasts are required when completing the Team Information Survey

This arrangement is necessary to ensure that we can meet everyone's needs and appreciate your co-operation.

BBQ / Shop

During the course of the Event we will also have a Shop / BBQ operating with reasonably-priced food and treats.

Tea / Coffee will also be available for €2 during the Event and we will provide a number of free Tea / Coffee vouchers to Coaches.

Camping

We would like to remind everyone that this is essentially an Outdoor Event and that, while every effort is being made to provide suitable facilities for all, it will not be up to 5* Hotel standard. We believe that a big part of the enjoyment at this Event will be a certain amount of “Roughing It”, i.e. Portaloos, Paper Plates etc, and we hope that everyone will get into the spirit of this.

We have attached a “Camping Advice Sheet” which includes a checklist of Equipment which participants should have. While we hope to get good weather, we advise that everyone plans and is prepared for adverse conditions.

We will have a number of volunteers on site to help with setting up the Tents but would **strongly advise that participants set up and re-pack their Tents in advance to ensure that they have all required parts and know how to assemble them.**

The Advice Sheet also includes some rules and adherence to these should help to ensure that everyone enjoys the Event. We would also emphasise that the primary responsibility for the supervision and welfare of the children rests with their own Club, Coaches and Parents.

Please note that for health & safety reasons, where we have excited children running around, attendees are **not allowed to have any BBQ's or Fire-Pits on site.**

Child Protection / Photographs

Parental permission for participation in the Event and it's constituent activities is the responsibility of each participating Club and we at Athy RFC will assume that these matters are in order.

It is an individual decision for each Club as to whether they require permission slips or a sign-up sheet for their players for this Event. Most Clubs will have their own standard Parental Permission Slips and we have attached a “Parental Permission Sheet” which might be of use to you to capture everyone. There is no need to forward Permission Slips / Sheets to us as we will assume that each Club has addressed this issue.

As part of our efforts to ensure that this is a memorable Event we will have a number of designated photographers on site who will take Group and Action shots of each Team. These photographs will be used by Athy RFC for promotional purposes only and will be shared with each participating Club for their own use through our Facebook Page, (www.facebook.com/AthyRugbyCampOut). At no time will individual children be identified or tagged.

Acceptance of the taking of photographs by designated Photographers and use for promotional purposes will also be assumed by Athy RFC.

Let Us Know

To allow us to plan effectively for the Event we will send out a link to an online **Team Information Sheet** **and** it would be appreciated if you could complete this with confirmed numbers by the 1st of April 2023

If you can't give exact numbers of persons or vehicles, your best guess will suffice to allow us to plan for meals, facilities etc.

We will however need you to be accurate on the number of Teams that you will be bringing as late changes to this cause a lot of disruption!!!

This is shaping up to be a memorable Event and we would like to say a big "Thank You" to all of the Club Coaches and Administrators who have shown such great interest in the Event and who have worked with us to ensure that the young players leave with a smile on their faces.

Regards,

Ollie Henry,

Event Co-Ordinator