

Fingal Sports Partnership Fingal Girls Festival of Football



WHY?



This one day tournament provides a fun filled day for the female participants, while helping to harness the dedication of the volunteers who put in hours of work to ensure girls have regular football, in what can often be described as a male domain.

Fingal has experienced substantial growth in girls' football, over the last few years, and events such as this are helping to encourage clubs to provide opportunities to develop girls sections to grow.

Due to the different competition levels of the tournament, it provides an opportunity for girls to put on a club jersey, perhaps, for the very first time. In addition, it also acts as pre-season warm up for the more established club teams.

AIMS

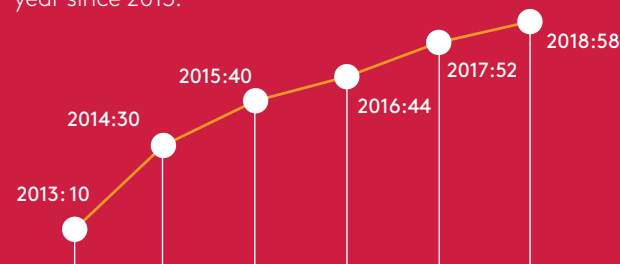
The aim of the programme is an attempt to tackle female dropout from sport by offering a free fun day for girls of all ages and abilities. The event is used to promote girls' football and to bring as many girls together as possible in one venue.

IMPLEMENTATION

- The Fingal Festival of Football was initially a boy's only cross border tournament set up in the early 1990's. The Fingal Sports Office was requested to take over the running of the tournament in 2006 and introduced a girls section in 2007. Only four girls teams took part from 2007. As a result of specific targeting of the development of girls and ladies football by the Sports Office and supported by the FAI, by 2013 10 teams were participating in the event.
- As a result of ongoing evaluation, a girl's only event was trialled. Based on its success the Fingal Girls Festival of Football has become an annual event.
- The festival caters for between 500-600 girls and is divided into a three sections (U8-U11, U12, and U13). Both the U12 & U13 have a community and elite section with the U8-U11 sections being non-competition based with the focus firmly on fun and enjoyment. The organising committee assign staff to oversee each section who ensure the smooth running of games, appoint referees and arrange all equipment and all organisational aspects of the event

OUTCOMES

The number of girls teams involved has grown year on year since 2013.



The event has facilitated the start-up of 15 new U8 teams in the last 3 years.

The FAI have added this event to their girl's football calendar to showcase and promote women's grassroots football.

NEXT STEPS

- The feasibility of including a coach education element to the day to encourage and promote volunteering particularly targeting women.
- Continue to increase the numbers involved each year.
- Specifically target clubs in the county to encourage the formation of new teams at U8, U9 & U10.

