



Hugh Kenny

Head of Games



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About Hugh and his role

Can you tell us about your role as Head of Games and what your main responsibilities are?

I oversee all coaching and games development activities in the county, working closely with clubs, schools, and volunteers. My main responsibilities include developing player pathways, supporting coach education, and coordinating staff, competitions and programmes that ensure players of all ages can participate and develop.

What are the key priorities for games development in Wicklow?

Our priorities are increasing underage participation, enhancing the quality of coaching across clubs, and introducing young players into club nursery's, Developing the Garden County Academy and providing a balanced programme of games to our young Hurlers and Footballers to develop.

How do you support and work with clubs, schools, and coaches to grow participation and performance?

As County Head of Games for Wicklow GAA, we work closely with clubs, schools, and coaches to drive participation and performance growth. We provide support and resources for club development, promote Gaelic games in schools, and offer coaching courses and mentoring. Our goal is to create a strong foundation in our games programme for future generations of players and coaches, while identifying and supporting talented players through our county squads and development programs. By working together, we aim to make Gaelic Games accessible and enjoyable for everyone in Wicklow, and make our county proud and successful.

What's your favourite memory or moment from your time working in GAA so far?

It has always been and will continue to be after a coaching session when players come up to you and thank for the time and effort and enjoyment they have got during the session.

What's your philosophy or approach to developing players and coaches?

I believe in a player-centered approach where enjoyment and skill development go hand in hand. For coaches, we promote continuous learning, mentorship, and a focus on fostering positive environments where players can thrive both on and off the field.

How do you see the GAA's games development evolving over the next few years?

I see a stronger emphasis on structured pathways, technology-enhanced coaching, and inclusivity, ensuring that Gaelic Games are accessible to everyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. Clubs and counties will increasingly collaborate to create sustainable development programmes while assisting with the changing demographics both in rural and urban clubs.

Who or what has influenced your approach to coaching and development the most?

I've been inspired by my father throughout my coaching journey, including former county coaches who emphasized the importance of fundamentals, preparation, and putting the player's development first. Seeing successful programmes in other counties has also influenced my approach.

What do you enjoy most about being part of the GAA community?

I love being part of a community that values participation, teamwork, and lifelong involvement. There's nothing better than seeing a child experience the joy of scoring their first point or watching a coach help a player develop confidence and skill.

