Does the Junior Cert affect GAA in Fourth Year ?

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# Introduction

We will be investigating whether the junior very cert year has an impact on girls dropping out of playing Gaelic games because of the stresses of the junior cert year. We will also be investigating if girls gave up other sports to prioritise GAA in this year. We will also be looking into if girls gave it up and why they gave it up and girls who kept playing and why they did.

Methods we used

The methods we used were interviews and surveys. We interviewed two types of girls. One had played camogie but gave it up and a girl who is still playing camogie. We chose to do an interview because they help you explain better understand, and explore research subjects' opinions, behaviour, experiences etc. Interview questions are usually open ended questions so that in depth information will be collected. We also sent out a survey to girls in 4th year Loreto to ask them

▪ Do they play any GAA currently ?

▪ If they gave it up why so ?

▪ If they gave it up, when did they give it up ?

For our interviews we asked fifteen questions in total, they were

1. What is your name and age ?
2. What team do you play for ?
3. When did you start playing camogie ?
4. How long have you played camogie for ?
5. Have you ever considered quitting camogie ?
6. Do you know anyone who has quit camogie, if so why ?
7. What made you start playing years ago ?
8. Do you have a favourite moment of your camogie career ?
9. How come you have stuck with it for so long, what has motivated you ?
10. Do you think camogie would be more attractive to people if it wasn't so competitive and had more of a social aspect ?
11. Does your club have many social events ?
12. Have you prioritized camogie over other sports and activities ?
13. Do you currently play any other sports ?
14. Do you know anyone who has quit another sport or activity to prioritise camogie ?
15. Did you play camogie in school ?

Results/Recommendations

The results we got from our survey on fourth years were varied

▪ Do you play any GAA currently ?

For this question fifty percent said yes twelve percent said no and thirty nine percent said yes but I gave it up.

▪ If you gave it to when did you give it up ?

Most people gave it up when they were ten years old, that being the answer for thirty nine percent of the participants.

▪ If you gave it up why so ?

The responses also varied on this question with the answers being "lost interest" "the coach" "had to focus on other sports" or "I preferred other sports" "Lack of motivation" and "I didn't like it"

These responses paint a very brutal picture of why girls give up sport in general

Molly interviewed Aisling Curtis

1. Aisling Curtis 27 years old.
2. Play for Clara Camogie Club.
3. I started playing camogie when I was four years old.
4. I have played camogie for over twenty years.
5. I have never considered quitting camogie myself but I do have friends who have quit throughout the years.
6. This is due to commitment and sometimes people are too busy to commit to all the training sessions and matches as it can be time consuming.
7. I started playing camogie when I started school in Clara national school. Everyone would play at lunch and my friends and I used to play with the boys.
8. One of my favourite moments was captaining the Loreto team when I was captain in 2011 and we won All Ireland.
9. Playing camogie is one of my favourite things to do and as I get older i have learned to appreciate it even more. I love being a part of a team and playing with all my friends and club mates is something I really enjoy.
10. I think there will always be a level of competitiveness in any sport you play and that camogie tries to be as inclusive as possible for girls at all levels of ability. I also think a lot of teams are very sociable and often have lots of friends on the team to socialize with.
11. Yes our club often holds social events and fundraisers
12. I used to play other sports iin school such as hockey and basketball but as I have gotten older and busier, I have prioritised camogie over other sports I used to play.
13. I sometimes go running or fo to the gym but camogie is the only team sport I play anymore.
14. Yes when I was in school a lot of my friends and I used to play different sports but as we got into sixth year and had to study more, some of us chose to just play camogie.
15. Yes I went to Loreto and played camogie all through school.

Sadly we did not get to interview a girl who had quit camogie.