



## **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Study Title: Connacht Rugby Player Retention Research Programme**

Dear Volunteer,

Information regarding the current investigation into the various perspectives held by stakeholders in the rugby community in Connacht are detailed below.

#### **What is the study about?**

The study is about finding context specific factors and possible barriers regarding drop-out and continued participation in youth rugby in Connacht. The hope is to identify these factors and contribute to the development of policy based on these findings. The intention is to enhance the rugby environment in Connacht, increase player retention and help to develop a healthy future for club rugby and its wider community in Connacht.

#### **What will I have to do?**

If you volunteer to participate, you will be contacted and assigned a time and date to attend a focus group centred on issues relating to your perspective of participation in club rugby in Connacht. You will participate in an online meeting using Microsoft Teams from any location you choose. During the course of the focus group you will engage in an informal discussion and give your perspectives on various topics relating to rugby drawing upon your specific experiences.

#### **What is a focus group?**

The focus group will be an informal group conversation, focused on particular issues relating to rugby participation, personal experiences and perspectives. There will be eleven different focus groups in total; you will only participate in one. Groups will consist of between 5-8 stakeholders, take ~2 hours in total and moderated by Patrick and/or Phil. These conversations will be recorded and transcribed. The subsequent analysis will determine the key themes underpinning the discussion.

#### **What are the benefits?**

The focus groups themselves should provide you with valuable stimulus for personal reflection and new understanding. On a larger scale, the results will help policy makers set

out a series of actionable recommendations to enhance the entire rugby experience in Connacht going forward.

**What are the risks?**

You might decide that you don't want to answer a question. If this happens, you do not have to answer any question you do not wish to.

**What if I do not want to take part?**

Participation is purely voluntary and you can choose not to take part or to stop your involvement in this study at any time or for any reason.

**What happens to the information?**

The information that is collected will be kept private and stored securely and safely on the student researcher's University of Limerick computer and associated secured One drive account. The computers and One drive storage are fully encrypted and protected by password. Your identity will remain anonymous outside of the focus group. Your name will not appear on any information. The raw data that is gathered in the study will comply with strict GDPR guidelines relating to storage and deletion.

**What if something goes wrong?**

In the unlikely event that something goes wrong during the focus group, the session will immediately stop until the researcher and participants are ready to restart the session or the session would be stopped completely.

**What if I have more questions or do not understand something?**

If you have any questions about the study you may contact either of the researchers. It is important that you feel that all your questions have been answered.

**What happens if I change my mind during the study?**

At any stage should you feel that you want to stop taking part in the study, you are free to stop and take no further part. There are no consequences for changing your mind about being in the study.

**Principal Investigator**

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Yours sincerely,

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