



Press Release: Wednesday, January 21, 2015

## **Australia to test Irish Schools select**

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY**

**Republic of Ireland Schools vs Australia Schools**  
**Home Farm FC, Whitehall**  
**Monday, January 26, KO 2pm**

THIS SEASON will see Paddy O'Reilly (Trinity Comprehensive School, Ballymun) take charge of the Boys' U18 Schools International side. The experienced veteran takes over the helm from Ollie Horgan (St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny) who will now serve as Coach this season. The talented duo are joined by Assistant Manager Dave Archbold (Palmerstown Community School). The latter is the only talismans to have captured the elusive Centenary Shield with the Republic of Ireland when he managed them to victory back in 2010

### **CENTENARY SHIELD**

The Republic of Ireland only joined the competition back in 2003 and tasted success immediately with an outstanding three in a row (2003, 2004, 2005) but they had to wait until 2008 to recapture the silverware as England reigned supreme

The Australian friendly will act as a pre-cursor for the Shield campaign as O'Reilly and his troops open their campaign against Northern Ireland on St. Patrick's Day in Ferney Park, Ballinamallard United FC (5pm)

Wales visit Wexford Youth's FC on the 26th of the same month and a trip to the Showgrounds in Sligo on April 17 will promise to be a tantalising tie for the Irish as they take on power houses England in their penultimate fixture. The Schools select finish their account against the Scots in Edinburgh on April 23.

### **AUSSIE TOUR**

The visitors will play a total of ten games in their three week tour of the UK & Ireland with the Republic of Ireland stop their fifth competitive encounter in their hectic schedule.

The Australian select played Gloucester & Stroud Colleges (Jan 19), Cardiff City (Jan 21), Welsh Schools (Jan 22), Welsh Colleges (Jan 23) while they roll into the Capital on January 25.

Following the clash with the Republic of Ireland, the Aussie's go North to take on the Northern Ireland Schools select (Jan 28), Scotland Schools (Jan 30), Independent Schools in England (Feb 1), Kidderminster Harriers (Feb 3) and England Schools will conclude their visit (Feb 4) as they depart for home on February 6.

### **HISTORY**

Next week's fixture is a regular clash, with Ireland suffering their first loss to the touring southern hemisphere side when they last met in 2012 with a 3-2 defeat in the Oscar Traynor Centre.

It's always a competitive fixture between the two nations as records suggest and Ireland defeated Australia 3-1 in 2010, while the sides drew 1-1 in 2008. However the visitors have had the upper hand as the Irish went down 0-1 in 2006 and then again in 2000 with a fiercely fought 3-4 defeat

## PROVISIONAL SQUAD

Paddy O'Reilly has selected 20 players to face their Australian counterparts on Monday next. Some of the Irish students have been capped at underage level already while others will relish the chance of representing their country at schools level

Galway native, Antaine O'Laoi is the sole survivor from last year's squad to make a welcome return but will he make the final cut?

The squad have enjoyed a series of friendly games in the build up to this encounter with a number of U19 SSE Airtricity clubs namely UCD, St. Patrick's Athletic, Shelbourne, Salthill Devon & Limerick. More recently, the schools select played the FAI U17's squad as they went down 3-2 to Tom Mohan's outfit yesterday (January 20) in the AUL Complex.

This friendly will be the ideal opportunity for the youngsters to showcase their abilities as O'Reilly has the difficult task of whittling down his panel to 18 ahead of the St. Patrick's Day fixture.

**SCHOOLS PROVISIONAL SQUAD:** Paul MURPHY (Gorey Community School, Wexford), **Conor MCCARTHY** (Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal), **Conor ELLIS** (Colaiste Pobail Bheanntrai), **Mark BUCKLEY** (MICC Dunmanway), **Georgie POYNTON** (Coláiste na hInse, Bettystown), **Lee MCCARRON** (Crana College, Buncrana), **Oisín HASSETT** (St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny), **Corey CHAMBERS** (Gorey Community School, Wexford), **Jamie AHEARNE** (Confey College, Leixlip), **Antaine Ó LAOÍ** (Colaiste Cholmcille, Galway), **Conor MELODY** (St. Joseph's College, Galway), **Nathan BENSON** (Rockbrook Park School), **Evan OSAM** (Coláiste Chillian, Clondalkin), **Aaron ROBINSON** (St. Benildus College, Stillorgan), **Darragh MARKEY** (Colaiste Phadraig, Lucan CBS), **Troy CAREY** (St. Paul's CBS, Brunswick St.), **Dylan WATTS** (Clonkeen College), **Daire O'CONNOR** (Gaelcholaiste na Mara, Arklow), **Dan TOBIN** (Oatlands College, Mount Merrion), **Ethan BOYLE** (Wexford Vocational School)

**MANAGEMENT:** Paddy O'REILLY, Manager (Trinity Comprehensive School, Ballymun), Dave ARCHBOLD, Assistant Manager (Palmerstown Community School), Ollie HORGAN, Coach (St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny), Richard FITZGIBBON (GK Coach), Mickey McGLYNN (Physio), Dr. Aidan O'COLMAIN (Team Doctor)



Promoting the game of Association Football in all schools

**Diane Fay**  
*National Administrative Officer*

diane.fay@fai.ie

**Football Association of Ireland Schools**  
National Sports Campus  
Abbotstown  
Dublin 15

tel: +353 (0) 1 8999 522  
fax: +353 (0) 1 8999 501  
mobile: +353 (0) 86 0404 952