



2020 DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SHOWCASE Frequently Asked Questions

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, February 19th – Parent Travel Meeting, Fenwick Cafeteria, 6PM
- Wednesday, March 18th – Travel Roster Finalized
- Wednesday, March 25th – Deadline to Apply For/Renew Passport
- Monday, May 4th – Deadline to Show Proof of Passport
- Tuesday, May 5th – Final Payments Due

Q: IS HAVING A PASSPORT NECESSARY?

A: Yes, passports are mandatory for all participating in this trip.

To make sure there are no issues with obtaining passports, all people traveling with the team through Anthony Travel will be required to apply for/renew their passports by Wednesday, March 25th. Proof of passport needs to be presented by Monday, May 4th.

Q: HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PASSPORT?

A: For details to apply online or in person, visit - https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/get/get_4855.html

Q: HOW DO I RENEW MY EXPIRING PASSPORT?

A: Please visit - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/renew.html>

Please keep in mind that passports can take up to 10 weeks to be processed.
Your passport expiration date must be after your departure date from Ireland.

Q: WHO GETS TO TRAVEL WITH THE TEAM?

A: The varsity travel rosters for football and cheer is almost complete and was determined during the fall of 2019 based on a projected view of the varsity roster for 2020. Besides just football players and cheerleaders, football managers and student trainers have also been invited on the trip. There is still flexibility to update the travel roster based on the discretion of Athletic Director Scott Thies, Head Cheer Coach Kayla Smith, and Head Football Coach Matt Battaglia with approval of the Fenwick administration.

The travel roster will be finalized by Wednesday, March 18th.

Q: CAN STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF '23 MAKE THE TRAVEL ROSTER?

A: Varsity roster spots are awarded based off of offseason training and practices. However, select participants from the Class of '23 have been selected by their coaches and invited to make the trip. These selections were based off of playing experience and showing exceptional effort and work ethic during offseason training.



Q: DOES GOING TO IRELAND GUARANTEE A VARSITY SPOT FOR CLASS OF '23?

A: Being invited to join the varsity teams in Ireland is in no way a guarantee that the student will be on varsity all season. Conversely, anyone in the Class of '23 who is not invited to make the trip to Ireland will still have every opportunity to compete and make varsity during the offseason and preseasons.

Q: CAN INCOMING FRESHMAN MAKE THE TRAVEL ROSTER?

A: No, this trip will be reserved for potential varsity athletes/managers/trainers only.

Q: WHAT CAN WE BRING WITH US ON THE PLANE/TRIP?

A: Everyone traveling with the team is allowed to bring a checked bag, carry on, and personal item. The checked bag for all players/cheerleaders/managers/trainers will be reserved for them bringing all the equipment necessary that they would normally need for any practice or game. For football players this includes all football equipment and uniforms and for managers it includes all video equipment and technology normally used for any practice or game.

Q: WHEN DO WE LEAVE AND RETURN?

A: We will depart on Tuesday night, August 25th and arrive on the following Wednesday morning. We will depart on Sunday, August 30th and return the same day. Exact times and details will be announced closer to the trip dates.

Q: WILL THERE BE FREE TIME ON THIS TRIP?

A: There will be some free time on this trip but this is an educational and competitive opportunity for the participants first and foremost. Every day will be scheduled out with as much detail as possible and will be treated extremely similar to how most college teams travel for bowl games. Travel itineraries will be provided to all families closer to trip date.

Q: WILL THERE BE PRACTICES IN IRELAND BEFORE THE GAME?

A: Yes, the teams have windows to practice on both Wednesday and Thursday with the game being on Friday. This is why it is crucial all players bring all equipment needed for both practice and game day with them in their checked bags.

Q: HOW CAN WE STAY ON TOP OF ACADEMICS DURING THE TRIP?

A: Each day will have a planned 2 hour study hall for the team. Everyone is expected to bring their iPads with them and there will be space and wi-fi at the Hotel that can accommodate our needs to ensure we are not falling behind.

Q: WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE IN DUBLIN?

A: You may very well experience all four seasons in the matter of a day, so pack accordingly. Average temperatures during the summer range from the mid 50s and 60s and rain can be expected year-round. While Dublin is one of Ireland's drier cities by comparison, raingear remains highly recommended. No matter the weather, expect it to be a topic of conversation among the locals.

Q: WHAT IS THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE?

A: Fortunately for you non-Gaeilge (Irish) speakers, the official language is only spoken in pockets of rural Ireland. In Dublin, as with the majority of Ireland, English serves as the primary language.



Q: WHAT IS THE TIME DIFFERENCE?

A: Ireland is six hours ahead of Central Standard Time. If it is noon in Chicago, it is 6 p.m. in Ireland.

Q: ARE HOTELS SIMILAR TO THE ONES IN THE UNITED STATES?

A: Your hotel experience in Ireland may be different from what you are accustomed to in the U.S. Hotel rooms are generally smaller in Ireland and the buildings much older. Towels may not be changed daily and luxuries like air conditioning are generally only guaranteed in five-star properties. Other properties are often cooled by the Irish “natural air conditioning”- rain and fresh air.

The hotel the Fenwick Teams will be staying at is the Clayton Hotel Leopardstown.

Q: WHAT IS THE BEST LOCAL FOOD?

A: From shepherd’s pie to corned beef and cabbage, Irish recipes are known for quality ingredients, use of herbs and spices, and a lack of salt and pepper. Potatoes, grains (especially oats) and dairy products have long been staples in the Irish diet, along with soups, seafood and meats. A typical Irish breakfast includes eggs, bacon, sausages, black/white pudding, beans, tomatoes and mushrooms. The most common everyday beverage is tea. Fast food is available in Dublin, but generally more expensive than in the U.S. If you are a selective or restrictive eater, we suggest purchasing some non-perishable snacks at the local grocery or bringing some with you.

Q: DO I NEED AN ADAPTER AND CONVERTER FOR MY TECHNOLOGY TO USE THE ELECTRICITY?

A: Ireland’s electric system operates on 220 volts with a plug bearing three rectangular prongs. To use standard American 110-volt appliances – including phones – you’ll need to bring a converter and wall adapter. If the appliance is dual voltage (most cell phones have an adapter connected), you will only need a wall adapter.

Q: IS THERE WI-FI OR INTERNET ACCESS?

A: Public Wi-Fi is available in a number of cafés, bars, restaurants, hotels and other public areas. All major Irish airports and most train stations provide Wi-Fi access. Some phonebooths also have built-in Wi-Fi hubs, and it is often possible to pick up these signals from street-side cafés. Most Irish hotels offer high-speed Internet services in the lobby or guestrooms. There are alternatives if wireless and Ethernet service is not available, including cellular cards, Wi-Fi hot spots and dial-up connections. Please note that any Internet charges assessed are the responsibility of the traveler.

Q: WHAT TYPE OF CURRENCY IS USED?

A: Ireland’s official currency is the euro. While each country in the eurozone issues its own coins (Irish coins feature a harp on the reverse side), every coin is considered legal tender in all eurozone countries. [Click here for the current exchange rate.](#)



Q: IS TIPPING FOR SERVICES SIMILAR TO HOW IT IS IN AMERICA?

A: Tipping and taxes for services in hotels and meals listed on trip itineraries are included in tour packages. Tips to the bus driver and tour director are also included. Tipping ten percent at restaurants is most common, and it is not expected at pubs.

Q: SHOULD I NOTIFY MY BANK AND CREDIT COMPANIES BEFORE THE TRIP?

A: Before leaving the country, it's a good idea to call your bank and Credit Card Company and let them know about your travel plans. Many banks will put a hold on accounts if they detect unusual spending patterns. They should provide you with a number to call in case you have any questions while overseas or if your card is lost or stolen. It is also a good practice to travel with two different credit cards.

Q: CAN I USE MY CREDIT CARDS ON THE TRIP?

A: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in Dublin. American Express and Diners Club are often not accepted at smaller establishments. Be aware that most credit card companies will charge a one to three percent fee for purchases made outside the U.S.

Q: ARE THERE ATM'S FOR GETTING CASH WHILE ABROAD?

A: The most convenient and efficient way to get cash abroad is at an ATM. The Cirrus and PLUS ATM networks span the globe; look at the back of your bank card to see which network you're on. Check with your bank regarding potential fees for international transactions. Large towns generally have easily accessible ATMs but in rural counties they may be few and far between, so have an alternate source of money in case of an emergency.

Q: HOW DO TAXES WORK IN DUBLIN?

A: The price of most goods in Ireland includes value added tax, or VAT of 23%. As a visitor, you can have this sales tax on goods (excluding food and hotel charges) refunded at the end of your trip. A tax-free shopping form must be obtained and completed in the store. Please note that you may be asked to present your passport in order to obtain this form. These forms can be presented at the Global Tax Free Shopping or Tax Back Desks located at all International Airports. Remember to keep receipts from all of your purchases.

Q: CAN I CALL INTERNATIONALLY WHILE ON THE TRIP?

A: European cellphones operate on a GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) standard. To use your existing cellphone, contact your service provider and ask if your phone operates on a GSM standard. If so, your phone should work abroad but may incur international roaming fees. Smartphones and tablets often work in Europe but you may incur huge costs for data roaming if these features are enabled. Please check with your service provider to understand how to enable/disable data roaming on your phone and manage those charges. If your current cell phone does not operate on a GSM, other options include buying a world phone, renting a phone or purchasing phone cards. With phone cards, you can dial the appropriate U.S. number from a public pay phone and have it charged to your phone card.



A small handling fee may be applied to the bill. To avoid high fees, use public phones instead of the phones in your hotel room. To call abroad, dial 00, followed by the country code (U.S. is 1), area code and local telephone number of the person you wish to reach. (e.g., 00 1 574 631 7080).

Q: ARE THERE AREAS I NEED TO AVOID FOR MY SAFETY WHILE VISITING?

A: Generally, Ireland is considered safe, however, taking the usual precautions is recommended. Guard your tickets and travel documents as you would your cash. Be alert for pickpockets, especially near tourist attractions such as the Temple Bar area. Place your passport on your body or in an interior pocket of your backpack. We also recommend using hotel safes where available. For State Department updates, please visit -

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Ireland.html>.

Q: WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS NOT ANSWERED BY THIS FAQ?

A: E-mail the head coach for your sport and they will get back to you as soon as possible to help make sure your concerns and questions are answered as best as possible.

Cheerleader Families contact Head Coach Kayla Smith at kaylaasmith@yahoo.com

Football Families contact Head Coach Matt Battaglia at mbattaglia@fenwickfriars.com