

Community Engagement 2022-2023

Over 250 dedicated UCD sports club volunteers generously contribute their time each week to coach within UCD sports clubs. Many of these volunteers also extend their commitment to the local community, fostering strong connections through their efforts, including UCD TaeKwon-Do, UCD Football, UCD Volleyball, UCD GAA, and UCD Men's Basketball. Examples of their impactful work include designing GAA coaching programs for Uganda GAA through regular Zoom sessions (UCD GAA), assisting in organising and running regattas (UCD Ladies Boat), umpiring competitions (UCD Taekwon-Do), providing safety at Liffey Descent races (UCD Canoe), providing coaches for the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown After School Through Sports programme (UCD Soccer), assisting in judging and timekeeping at intercollegiate and intervarsity events (UCD Karate), contributing to planning the Leinster Orienteering Championships (UCD Orienteering) and volunteering at Parkrun Irish Mountain Running Association events (UCD Mountaineering).

Cancer charities remain a popular choice for fundraising in our sports clubs. UCD Men's and Women's Rugby clubs, along with Tag Rugby and students from the BSc in Sports and Exercise Management, collaborated to raise over €18,000 for the Irish Cancer Society during the annual Daffodil Day. UCD Surf and UCD Tennis participated in the Irish Cancer Society Relay For Life, a global initiative that honours cancer survivors, remembers loved ones, and raises awareness about the Irish Cancer Society's services. UCD Karate Club members participated in the Great Pink Run and UCD Ladies Hockey through their Pink Week both raised funds Breast Cancer Ireland. UCD Fencing donated the proceeds from their Colours event to the Irish Cancer Society.

UCD Men's Hockey, UCD Sailing, and UCD Trampoline actively participated in the Movember campaign, a month-long initiative that supports men's health issues including mental health, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer. Their involvement helped raise both funds and awareness for these important causes.

To honour and support women in sport at UCD, the UCD AUC launched the Women In Sport Campaign, offering branding templates and a participation guide to its affiliated clubs. Over twenty UCD sports clubs enthusiastically participated in the week-long campaign, making it a resounding success. As part of the initiative and in celebration of International Women's Day, UCD Karate organised a complimentary karate and self-defence class.

UCD Table Tennis loaned and arranged equipment for Special Olympics Ireland's training and development program on a monthly basis. UCD Sailing actively participated in the Darkness into Light campaign. UCD Mountaineering generously donated the profits from their t-shirt sales to support Mountain Rescue. Members of UCD Sub Aqua participated in the Santa Dive event and provided a boat for assistance, all in support of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

UCD Archery and UCD Fencing clubs joined forces to raise funds for the Turkey Syria earthquake charity. In addition, UCD Fencing organised an in-house competition to support the Irish Heart Foundation. UCD Trampoline held a Dragons Den event to raise funds for Aware, an organisation that offers free support and information for individuals experiencing depression or bipolar disorder, as well as their loved ones. UCD Karate organised a range of activities including Laughter Yoga, a hike, pub quizzes, and self-defence classes, all with the goal of raising funds for the Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland.

