



Press Release 29th June 2026

Shamrock Rovers F.C. and TU Dublin Launch Strategic Partnership to Advance Women's Football

Shamrock Rovers F.C. is delighted to announce the next chapter in its relationship with Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) through a strengthened strategic partnership that will see the Tallaght Campus of TU Dublin become the home of Shamrock Rovers Women's Football.

The partnership builds upon an existing relationship between the two organisations, which has seen Shamrock Rovers and TU Dublin collaborate on a number of research initiatives in recent years, covering Shamrock Rovers in the Community, Women in Football and, later this year, we will revisit the subject of Women in Football. This programme was developed by three academics from the School of Media in TU Dublin's Tallaght Campus, namely Dr. Glenn Doyle, Anna-Maria Mullally and Alan Fitzpatrick and Board Director, Mark Lynch on the Shamrock Rovers side.

Following discussions earlier this year, a shared opportunity was identified to further develop that relationship and create a dedicated high-performance environment capable of supporting the continued growth and development of Women's Football.

Since those initial discussions in March, both organisations have worked collaboratively to bring that vision to life. In a relatively short period of time, a shared ambition has evolved into a fully operational development programme supporting Shamrock Rovers Women's First Team, Under 23 and Under 17 National League squads.

The partnership represents the most significant collaboration to date between Shamrock Rovers and TU Dublin and reflects a shared commitment to providing female athletes with an environment that supports excellence both on and off the pitch.

Based at TU Dublin's Tallaght Campus, players now have access to training and match facilities, a state-of-the-art gymnasium and video analysis facilities and sports hub, creating an environment that supports player development across all aspects of performance. The Women's First Team, U23 and U17 squads are now based at TU Dublin throughout the week, utilising the facilities for training, preparation and performance development.

Earlier this month, the first Women's National League and Cup fixtures were successfully hosted at TU Dublin - Tallaght, marking another important milestone in the continued evolution of the partnership and the establishment of a dedicated home for Shamrock Rovers Women's Football.

While the immediate focus has been on establishing a high-performance environment for the Women's programme, both organisations also see significant opportunities to further develop the partnership in the years ahead through educational pathways, scholarship opportunities, student engagement, research collaboration and community initiatives.

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Shamrock Rovers F.C.

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The partnership will also play an important role in supporting participation in the game at grassroots level. This August, Shamrock Rovers will host an all-girls football camp on TU Dublin's Tallaght Campus, providing young players with the opportunity to engage with the club, experience a professional sporting environment and further strengthen connections between football, education and the local community.

The pace at which the partnership has developed reflects the commitment shown by both organisations since discussions first commenced. Building upon an already positive relationship, representatives from Shamrock Rovers and TU Dublin have worked closely together to transform a shared ambition into an environment that is already supporting players across multiple age groups.

Robbie Hedderman, CEO, Shamrock Rovers FC, said, *"This partnership with TU Dublin's Tallaght Campus represents a significant step forward in our commitment to advancing women's football. At Shamrock Rovers, we continue to build a high-performance environment that supports players on and off the pitch, and we are excited to share our knowledge, expertise and experience with TU Dublin as we work together to create new opportunities for female athletes."*

The collaboration is founded on a shared ambition to raise standards and create a best-in-class environment for player development. While Shamrock Rovers can contribute insights from our elite football structures, coaching pathways and player development programmes, TU Dublin brings exceptional academic expertise, a strong commitment to supporting student-athletes, and facilities that already provide an outstanding platform for performance. What is particularly exciting is the shared vision to continue investing in and developing those facilities and resources, creating an environment that can evolve alongside the growing demands of the women's game.

Together, we are creating a pathway where talented players can thrive, combining the benefits of elite football with educational opportunities that support their long-term development. This partnership is about more than what exists today, it is about building for the future and creating a sustainable model that helps drive the continued growth of women's football both on and off the pitch."

Speaking about the partnership, **Sally Anne Sherry, Chief Operations Officer** at TU Dublin, said:

"TU Dublin is delighted to partner with Shamrock Rovers and support the continued growth of women's football through a shared commitment to excellence, opportunity and community engagement."

This partnership brings together one of Ireland's leading football clubs and one of Ireland's leading universities to create an environment where athletes can thrive both on and off the pitch. Through access to high-quality facilities, educational opportunities and community programmes, we hope to support the development of current and future generations of female athletes.

As a university with deep roots in Tallaght and South Dublin, we are particularly excited about the positive impact this partnership can have locally, creating stronger connections between education,

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Board of Directors: John Bateson, Ciaran Kane, Mark Lynch, Ciaran Medlar (Indpt. Chair), James Nolan, Niall O'hEineachain, Brendan Dawson, John Ryan, Ray Wilson.

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sport and the wider community while inspiring more young women and girls to engage in football and pursue their ambitions."

Shamrock Rovers would like to acknowledge the collaborative effort that has underpinned the development of the partnership and thank all those who have contributed to its success. The Club looks forward to continuing to work closely with TU Dublin as the partnership develops, creating a leading environment for Women's Football in Ireland, supporting player development, promoting participation and helping drive the continued growth of the women's game for years to come.

ENDS.

Images at the announcement are attached and a link to images of the new facility is here

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/papzb1eif99tczuckkalq/ALyCDudqzVoywel4mQk1tgY?rlkey=dv744v6ub8vhr7bbjva421f48&st=cnhzv4&dl=0>

Players image (left): Kayla Maguire (U23s), Ruby Boland (U17s), Maria Reynolds (First Team), Ava Kelly (U17s) and Ella Kelly (First Team)

Group Image: (left) Christy O'Shea (TUD Senior Manager – Sport), James O'Callaghan (SRFC Women's First Team Manager, Robbie Hedderman (SRFC CEO), Maria Reynolds, Kayla Maguire, Ella Kelly, Ava Kelly, Ruby Boland, Tommy Carberry (SRFC Head of Women's Academy), Ronan Finn (SRFC Director of Football), Sally-Anne Sherry (TUD Chief Operations Officer), Laura Fitzpatrick (Sport Facility & Development Manager) and Ciaran Medlar (SRFC Independent Chairman).

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