

Code of Conduct and Best Practice



Straffan GAA Club Juvenile Section, Straffan LGFA and Straffan Camogie Club (herein referred to as Straffan GAA) Code of Conduct and Best Practice

Straffan GAA is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club should at all times show respect and understanding for members' rights, safety and welfare. Our members should conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our club.

Code of Conduct for Children

Children should:

- Have fun.
- Show respect for their coaches, fellow players, opponents, and match officials and the decisions they make.
- Wear a gum shield at all matches and training sessions. This is mandatory under GAA rules.
- For Camogie, all players must wear a helmet during games and training
- Provide their own sporting and protective equipment including club colour clothing as advised by coaches.
- Show respect for Straffan Club facilities and the facilities of any club visited.
- Remember at all times that they are representing their club, parish and community.
- Always shake hands with the other team after a match
- Play fair in training and matches.
- Be punctual for all matches and training.
- Win with humility, lose with dignity

Children should not:

- Cheat, use violence or verbal abuse.
- Bully, bullying of any sort will not be tolerated
- Be dishonest
- The use of bad language or racist remarks will not be tolerated

Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

Parents and guardians should:

- Show appreciation of and respect for sports leaders and their decisions.
- Inform mentors of any medical condition their child suffers from.
- Encourage their child to play by the rules.
- Behave responsibly on the sidelines.
- Focus on the child's efforts rather than performance.
- Focus on the fun and participation of the child in the activity.

- Be punctual when dropping and collecting your child at training.
- Leave coaching to the mentors/coaches, do not enter the Astro pitch or grass pitch while training is in progress, enter only when asked to do so by a mentor or coach.
- Support the club's fund raising activities where possible
- Emphasise skill development and practice over winning

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF NURSERY PLAYERS MUST STAY ON SITE DURING TRAINING and to use the viewing path rather than enter the Astro pitch

Code of Conduct for Mentors

- The club's activities are to be carried out in an atmosphere of respect for children and in a spirit of fair play and equality.
- More than one adult must be present at any of the club's activities. If girls are part of the activity a female mentor must be present. In the case where an official of the club is not available to fulfil this requirement a parent or guardian may be asked to remain for the duration of the activity.
- Parents will be informed of an injury to a child or problems expressed by the child.
- Foul or abusive language is not to be used in addressing children.
- Be self-critical and not afraid to seek assistance
- Be familiar with the child protection guidelines through liaison with the Children's Officers.
- Liaise with parents/guardians but do not share confidential information regarding other players.
- Ensure that all players are aware that all forms of bullying will not be tolerated
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved
- No excessive demands or expectations are to be made on children.
- The use of corporal punishment or physical force on a child is forbidden.
- Players must be a member of the club. Players who are not registered are **NOT INSURED** to train or play.
- Players must play with their correct age group (team). Players must play matches with their correct age group as a priority, if there is a clash of matches.
- Players should not play with more than 2 teams.
- Players on a team should get equal play time.
- Players should get priority in their own age group. Players who are playing in their age group (at the age and one year below) should not be substituted by players 2 years or more down.
- Players can play above their age group if needed – as long as above guidelines are followed.
- Managers/Mentors must always display high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Do not smoke while involved with under age teams
- Do not equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies. The level of improvement made by underage players is the indicator of effective coaching

Mentors should:

- Avoid spending time with children away from others or taking children alone in their car.
- Be aware at all times that they are representing their club, parish and community.
- Show and encourage respect for match officials, opponents, facilities and equipment.

- Be punctual and encourage punctuality for all of the club's activities.
- Rotate the captaincy of the team and ensure that each player gets equal playing time (this applicable in all teams).

Any breach of the above will be dealt with by the Juvenile Committee.

Important Notice: Mentors cannot phone or text any player under the age of 18 on their mobile phone. They must phone the players parent/guardian. This has been advised by the GAA.

Club Discipline

Misconduct by children will result in a warning issued by the mentor. If this misconduct is repeated, minor sanctions, such as a time out from a training session will be invoked. If the misconduct continues the child's parents will be informed and they will have to remove the child immediately from the training session so as not to cause any further disruption for the other players.

Serious misconduct by a club member will be dealt with by the committee as a whole.

Safety Procedures

- A first aid kit will be made available by the club for all matches and training sessions.
- Mentors are to have access to relevant emergency and parent contact numbers at all sessions.
- Injuries and dangerous occurrences are to be reported by mentors to the Juvenile Committee.
- Safe behaviour on and off the field will be promoted by the club.

Club Children's Officer: Catherine Bushe/Seamus Hussey

The Children's Officer ensures the implementation and promotion of the relevant Child Welfare and Protection Codes and Guidelines for good practice in the Club, to ensure that young people can participate, enjoy and benefit from our Gaelic Games in safe and enjoyable surroundings.

Designated Person: John Neenan

The Designated Person is the first point of contact for child protection and welfare incidents, who will in turn contact the County Board designated person and other relevant bodies.

Code of Best Practice Committee: Patricia O'Brien, Bernie Molloy, Jack Hennigan

The Club Code of Best Practice Committee will adjudicate on breaches of the code within the club.

