



Newcestown Hurling & Football Club Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



Code of Conduct

Introduction

This document outlines a code of conduct which members of Newcestown GAA should abide by. In addition, the rules of the GAA should also be adhered to. The target audience for this document is:

- Players.
- Mentors.
- Spectators.
- Parents/guardians of underage players.
- Underage mentors.
- All club members.

All Members

All members of the club should abide by the following:

- Remember that you are representing Newcestown GAA at all times.
- Pay membership by the due date.
- Respect referees and officials and accept their decisions. Do not shout at or argue with teammates or opponents. Do not use foul or abusive language.
- Do not engage in bullying, sectarian abuse or racist abuse, in any form (i.e. verbal, written or social media).
- Respect property of the club and the property of other clubs.

Players

In addition to the "All Members" section, players should abide by the following:

- Always wear club colours on the field of play (i.e. official jersey, white shorts, red/yellow socks).
- Attend training sessions and matches on time and notify mentor in advance if unable to attend.
- Play and train with commitment and in a competitive but fair manner.
- Encourage fellow players : Hurling & Football are team games
- Abide by the GAA respect initiative "GIVE RESPECT GET RESPECT"
- Always wear the appropriate safety equipment.

In the case of underage players:

- Give priority to your own age group.



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Mentors

All mentors dealing with players under 18 years of age **must be Garda vetted**.

In addition to the "All Members" section, mentors should abide by the following:

- Ensure that players experience a safe environment while in your care and ensure that the appropriate protective equipment is used.
- Ensure that training is an enjoyable experience for all players.
- First aid should be available for all training and matches.
- Show respect to players, match officials and opposition and do not criticise these groups publicly.
- Set a good example in areas of punctuality and attitude.
- Coach by example and encourage sportsmanship and fair play on the field of play.
- Teach players the rules of the game and how to abide by them.

In addition to the above, all mentors dealing with underage players should:

- Promote the ethos that winning and losing are an important part of sport, but they must be kept in a healthy perspective.
- Avoid rebuking a child for making a mistake, always encourage.
- Notify parents/guardians of injury or illness which occur to children during activity.
- Keep parents/guardians informed of starting and finishing times of training and matches.
- Only communicate with underage players through group text.
- Not be alone in a changing room, car etc. with any individual player under any circumstances.
- Ensure at least two adults are present when treatment is given to injured players.
- Ensure at least two adults are present to conduct a training session.
- Avoid smoking or drinking alcohol in the presence of underage players.
- Give priority to the player's own age group.
- Ensure that all players are given sufficient game time irrespective of ability in non-competitive age groups.

Spectators

In addition to the "All Members" section, spectators should abide by the following:

- Provide positive, encouraging support to all Newcestown teams.
- Support your team by attending matches on a regular basis.
- Do not enter the field of play while a match is in progress.
- Do not criticise referees publicly. It achieves nothing positive and may have the opposite effect.
- Respect the opposition, don't vilify the opposition and never get in an altercation with the opposition.



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For Parents/Guardians of underage players:

- Behave responsibly and refrain from negative comments and criticism of participants at matches.
- Bring children to and from training and matches on time.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Support and encourage your child to practice the skills of GAA at home.
- Ensure your child has the proper training/playing gear and water.
- Support the mentors and help out whenever necessary.
- Accept the decisions of the mentors and encourage your child to do the same.

Discipline

Adult disciplinary issue:

- Deal with issues when they arise.
- Talk to the player / mentor / spectator.
- If the problem persists raise the issue at committee level.

Underage disciplinary issue:

- Deal with issues when they arise.
- If the issue persists caution the player and inform the parents or guardians.
- Raise the issue at committee level.

The Club Children's Officer

The appointment of a Children's Officer is an essential element in the creation of a quality atmosphere within Newcestown GAA Club. The Children's Officer will have the following functions:

- **Ensure that Garda vetting is done for all relevant club members.**
- Promote awareness of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.
- Influence policy and practice within the club in order to prioritise children's needs.
- Provide an accessible resource to children.
- Ensure that children know how to raise concerns with appropriate adults or agencies.
- Encourage the involvement of parents/guardians in the club activities and co-operate with parents/guardians in ensuring that each child enjoys his/her involvement in sport.
- Act as an advisory resource to Sports Leaders on best practice in children's sport.
- Report regularly to the Club Executive Committee.
- Monitor changes in membership and follow up any unusual dropout, absenteeism or club transfers by children or Sports Leaders

Children's Officers do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating child protection concerns within the club and have no counselling or therapeutic role. It is, however, possible that child protection concerns will be brought to the attention of the Children's Officer.