



****CHILD SAFEGUARDING****

Following the commencement of recent child welfare legislation- Children's First Act 2015, and the upgrading of our Code of Behaviour (Underage) all Clubs are now obliged to undertake a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. This examines the potential for harm and abuse that could come to children while they are in our care and attending our games and activities. This has been completed by our club.

We are now obliged to publically display a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the procedures in place that ensure, as far as practicable, that a child participating in our activities is safe from harm. Our child safeguarding statement is displayed in the club house.

Should anyone be concerned in relation to incidences of actual harm or potential harm to a child /children, contact details for the relevant personnel are as below:

Child Safeguarding Contacts

Club Designated Liaison Person(DLP): Anthony Whyte chairperson.clannmhuire.dublin@gaa.ie

National Mandated Person(GAA): Gearoid O Maoilmhichil mandatedperson@gaa.ie

National Mandated Person (Igfa): Paula Prunty E:mandatedperson@lgfa.ie

Club Children's Officer: Kevin Doyle doyle.kevin01@gmail.com

GAA CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

The associations (gaa and lgfa) have updated the code of behaviour - 'Maintaining appropriate levels of behaviour in our work with children and young people.'

It aims to address the minimum levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our young players, coaches, supporters, parent/guardians, referees and clubs and from those who work with them on our behalf. It also asks that those who undertake roles within the Gaelic games commit to

maintaining an enjoyable and safe environment for all where the safeguarding of our members will always be paramount.

We would encourage you to take some time to read it. <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/code-of-behaviour>

This document addresses the appropriate levels of behaviour, conduct and good practice expected of all our members, whatever their role in Club activities. Outlined below is a **summary** of the Code which is to be adopted and implemented. All are expected to adhere to the principles in their entirety.

It is universally accepted that sport can play a positive role in a child's development, notably in the areas of confidence, communication and socialisation. The attested benefits multiply as he/she journeys from childhood to adolescence and on into adulthood. There is an onus on us as adults, to create and foster a positive sporting environment that nurtures the growing skills of our youth and encourages them in their sporting dreams and ambitions.

The highest standards of sportsmanship will be promoted and demanded by all that represent Clann Mhuire / St. Peter's and from all associated with the Club in whatever capacity. Should a breach of the Code be alleged or when people refuse to adhere to its contents, then certain actions may be deemed necessary to protect the integrity of our work in the club.

Code of Conduct – Juvenile Players

Young players have a responsibility to treat other players, mentors and officials with fairness and respect.

- Be safe and feel safe
- Tell somebody else you trust if you or others have been harmed in any way
- Club officials you can tell are your coach, the Club's Children Officer, or the Chairperson
- Always do your best, play fairly and have fun
- Do not use violence, unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or to isolate other players.
- Respect all coaches, mentors, officials and opponents
- Do not shout at or argue with the referee, officials, team mates or opponents
- Represent your team, club and family with pride and dignity
- Shake hands with opponents, teammates and referee after a game
- Have respect for our club facilities and equipment including the clubhouse, dressing rooms and hall at all times.

Code of Conduct – Coaches, Mentors and Trainers

All Coaches working with young people and children are required to be suitable for their chosen role(s), and should be appropriately trained, qualified and supported to fulfil such roles.

- All coaches are required to undertake agreed vetting and background Garda checks and to attend coaching and training courses relevant to their roles
- All coaches and team mentors working with underage teams (teams under 18) are required to undertake appropriate child protection courses
- It is best practice to ensure that there is at least one female mentor at all girl's training and matches. If this is not possible then another female adult (mother) should be present during these activities.

- Coaches are required to maintain a child centred approach
- Develop an understanding of relevant coaching methods and ensure that you have the appropriate level of coaching accreditation
- Be positive during coaching sessions, games and other activities so that young players always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with children based on mutual trust and respect.
- Only deliver one to one coaching, if deemed necessary, in a group setting.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with an underage player and never engage in inappropriate touching of a player.
- Do not communicate individually by text/email with underage players. Keep an attendance record of training and matches
- Never be alone with an individual child in dressing rooms or car – safety in numbers
- Refrain from taking photographs of children, any photos should be of groups but names must not be included if put on social media
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person by treating each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
- Ensure regular games for the greatest number of players – All Juvenile Players involved in ‘Go Games’ (U8 - U12’s) should get an equal amount of playing time.
- Encourage sportsmanship and “Fair Play” on the field of play among youth players.
- Encourage respect for Match Officials by your own behaviour towards such officials, shake hands before and after the game and insist that your team does likewise.
- Don’t shout at or lecture players or reprimand/ridicule them when they make a mistake.
- Keep a record of injuries and actions subsequently taken.

Code of Conduct - Adult Players

- Represent your team, club and family with pride and dignity.
- Welcome visiting teams to our club/pitches.
- Respect all coaches, mentors, officials and opponents.
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- Always do your best, play fairly.
- Do not use violence, unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or to isolate other players.
- Never use foul language, racial abuse or provocative gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Always turn out for all games in the official club gear.
- Ensure that the coach/mentor/manager is informed in advance if you are unavailable for training and games - at least two days in advance for games.
- Ensure that all dressing rooms, home & away and the general areas that are occupied by you and your team are kept clean and are not damaged in any way.
- Have respect for club facilities and equipment including the clubhouse, dressing rooms, hall and gym at all times.

Code of Conduct – Parents/Supporters

- Always encourage and support your child and their team mates in their sport
- Be familiar with the mentors who are coaching your child
- Show respect to and accept decisions made by coaches and mentors in the interest of the greatest number of players

- Remember the coaches are in the best position to decide what is best for their players and the team as a whole. Competitive football starts at U13 level, all players will not always get an equal amount of match time as is the case in 'Go Games'
- Show appreciation to volunteers, coaches and club officials
- If making a complaint about the standard of coaching, do so respectfully with the Clubs head coach
- Behave responsibly on the side-line and do not question a referee's decision or integrity
- Never use foul language or provocative gestures to a player, opponent or match official
- Encourage your child and their team mates to play by the rules
- Inform the club / team mentors of any medical condition or special needs of your child
- Ensure that your child punctually attends training or games
- Ensure that the coach/mentor is informed in advance if your child is unavailable for training or games - at least two days in advance for games
- Play an active role in organising and assisting various activities within the Club
- Ensure your child has the proper equipment/training gear e.g. gum shields, boots, gloves
- Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game

Breach of the Code of Behaviour

An allegation of a breach of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) may be made by any person or persons ("the Complainant") to one of the following as appropriate in the circumstances:-

- The Club Children's Officer;
- The County Children's Officer;
- The National Children's Officer;
- The Secretary of the Club Executive Committee;
- The Secretary of the County Committee;
- The Secretary of the National Child Safeguarding Committee.

Internal Complaints Procedure

Stage 1 (informal complaint)

The Club will endeavour to deal with all informal/verbal complaints as soon as possible. A complaint may be made to the mentor, the Children's Officer, the Designated Liaison Person or the secretary of the Club Executive Committee. All complaints will be noted and kept on file.

The club's first course of action will be to encourage the complainant, in the company of the mentor, to speak directly to the person they have an issue with in a calm and non-aggressive manner. If the issue cannot be resolved then a member of the committee or the Children's Officer (if deemed appropriate) may mediate to try to resolve the issue. If there are numerous complaints about a club member/coach/parent/player etc. the club may bring the matter to the Disciplinary Committee to resolve it.

Stage 2 (formal complaint)

If the complaint cannot be resolved at the first stage (informally) then the complaint must be put in writing and given to the Club Children's Officer or a member of the Club Committee. The complaint will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee to resolve the problem.

Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee will be made up of the Club's Juvenile Chairperson, Children's Officer, Designated Person and the Clubs Head Coach. If the complaint is about any of the above mentioned people then that person cannot be part of the Disciplinary Committee. The complaint shall be responded to in writing within 2 weeks. If the complaint involves suspected abuse then the Procedure for Reporting Allegation of Child Abuse shall be implemented. The Disciplinary Committee shall hold a meeting to discuss the complaint. The Disciplinary Committee shall inform the person whom the complaint is being made against in writing. They may provide a response either verbally (at a meeting with disciplinary committee) or in writing. They must be accompanied by a parent.

All processes will be clearly and accurately recorded at every stage. All information from the process written or verbal will be kept confidential. When dealing with a complaint it is important to be clear about:

- The particular incident of concern
- Any previous incidents taken into account
- Any remedial action to be taken e.g. an apology
- Any new behaviour expected
- What will happen if the arrangements agreed are not adhered to

Following its deliberations the disciplinary committee may issue any of the following sanctions as it deems necessary:

- Issue warning as to future behaviour
- Suspension from training and/or matches.
- Suspension from club
- Expulsion from club

Reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern include:

- Evidence, for example an injury or behaviour, that is consistent with abuse and is unlikely to have been caused in any other way
- Any concern about possible sexual abuse
- Consistent signs that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect
- A child saying or indicating by other means that he or she has been abused
- Admission or indication by an adult or a child of an alleged abuse they committed
- An account from a person who saw the child being abused

If any member feels that there are reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern then they should **make contact with TUSLA or the club Children's Officer, Mandated Person, or the Designated Liaison Person.**

The Code of Behaviour addresses the minimum appropriate levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our all our members including juveniles, adult players, coaches, supporters and parents/guardians. The Club is committed to developing, promoting and implementing this Code

of Behaviour to ensure fair play, respect, equality, safety and non-discrimination in all aspects is applied. The Club's Juvenile Committee or Executive Committee has the authority to investigate any matter and to suspend, warn or disqualify any member from club activities for breaches of the Club's Rules, Codes and the Official Guide or for conduct considered to have discredited or harmed the Club or the GAA.

Players and club members can benefit greatly from sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment. Accordingly, all players and club members are encouraged to realise that because of their participation in Gaelic Games, that they also have a responsibility to treat all players, coaches, team mentors and officials with fairness and respect at all times. As a Club we will continue to build on the enjoyment and privilege of competing, representing or supporting Clann Mhuire CLG with Pride and Passion.

Juvenile & Executive Committees of Clann Mhuire CLG