

The Gaelic Games Council of Britain
Parents/Guardians Code of Behaviour

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Parents/Guardians have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to fully participate in gaelic games and associated activities whether by playing our games or attending training or coaching sessions or referring.
- 1.2 In common with Coaches and Club personnel the Parents/Guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children as they participate in gaelic games and associated activities.

2. Parents/Guardians should encourage their children to:

- 2.1 Always play by the rules.
- 2.2 Improve their skills levels.
- 2.3 Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability.
- 2.4 Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to exercise, food, rest and play. Advice may be sought if necessary from Coaches on this issue.

3. Parents/Guardians should lead by example:

- 3.1 Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in gaelic games.
- 3.2 Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- 3.3 Do not exert undue pressure on your child.
- 3.4 Never admonish your own child or any other child for their standard of play.
- 3.5 Be realistic in their expectations.
- 3.6 Show approval for effort, not just results.
- 3.7 Avoid asking a child or young person, 'How much did you score today' or 'What did you win by' or 'What did you lose by.' Ask them 'Did they enjoy themselves.'
- 3.8 Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player.
- 3.9 Applaud good play from all teams.
- 3.10 Do not criticise playing performances. Identify how improvements may be made.
- 3.11 Do not seek to unfairly affect a game or player.
- 3.12 Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge.

4. Parents/Guardians must:

- 4.1 Complete and return the registration/permission and forms for their child's participation in the gaelic games activities.
- 4.2 Alert coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel immediately prior to each and every coaching session, game or other activities, of your child's medical or dietary requirements.

GGCB, the Provincial Councils, Board, County Boards, Clubs and those which comprise them **do not** adopt a role of loco parentis and where your child has special medical or dietary requirements you should remain present during the coaching sessions, game or other activities to ensure that your child's special requirements are catered for by you.

- 4.3 Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities.
- 4.4 Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of gaelic games including for example helmets, shin guards, gum shields etc.
- 4.5 Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- 4.6 Never encourage your child(ren) to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.
- 4.7 Listen to what their child may have to say.
- 4.8 Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game.
- 4.9 Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in games

5. Parents/Guardians should assist by:

- 5.1 Showing appreciation to volunteers, coaches and officials.
- 5.2 Attending training and games on a regular basis.
- 5.3 Assisting in the organising of activities and events as requested.
- 5.4 Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating each one equally regardless of ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.
- 5.5 Not entering team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach(es) so as to protect the privacy of other underage players.

6. Parents/Guardians have a right to:

- 6.1 Know their child is safe and to make a complaint if they believe that their child's safety is in any way compromised.
- 6.2 Be informed of problems/concerns relating to their child.
- 6.3 Be informed if their child gets injured.
- 6.4 Complain if they have concerns about the standard of coaching.
- 6.5 Have a say in relation to decisions being made within their club.