

# The Gaelic Games Council of Britain (GGCB)

## Young Players Code of Behaviour

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Young Players can benefit greatly from sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment.
- 1.2 Our players are encouraged to realise that as a result of their participation in gaelic games and associated activities that they also have a responsibility to treat all other players and officials with fairness and respect.
- 1.3 With rights there will always be responsibilities.

**Note:** The term Young Players also refers to children ie any person under the age of 18 years, regardless of what team, grade or age group they play with. 'Underage' is a general term given to the players and competitions up to Minor grade level and to who the Code of Behaviour (Underage) applies.

- 1.4 Young Players, and those who work with them in the GGCB are required to 'sign up' and abide by this Young Players Code of Behaviour and to any other policies or codes in our Clubs or GGCB.

### 2. Young Players Should be Entitled to:

- 2.1 Be safe and feel safe.
- 2.2 Have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment.
- 2.3 Be treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity.
- 2.4 Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- 2.5 Participate in games and competitions at age-appropriate levels.
- 2.6 Be afforded adequate and meaningful playing time to assist in the development of their playing skills, within their own age group and in accordance with Rule.
- 2.7 Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- 2.8 Be protected from abuse.
- 2.9 Be listened to and have their suggestions heard in a constructive manner.

### 3. Young Players Should always:

- 3.1 Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves.
- 3.2 Respect fellow team members and opponents regardless of ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.
- 3.3 Support fellow team members regardless of whether they do well or not.
- 3.4 Represent their team, their Club and their family with pride and dignity.
- 3.5 Respect all coaches, their opponents and decisions of officials.
- 3.6 Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.

- 3.7 Shake hands before and after a game as part of the Give Respect - Get Respect initiative, irrespective of the result.
- 3.8 Inform their coach/mentor/manager in advance if they are unavailable for training and games.
- 3.9 Take due care of Club equipment.
- 3.10 Know that it is acceptable to talk to the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions they may have.
- 3.11 Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed in any way

#### **4. Young Players Should engage in good practice:**

- 4.1 Never cheat – always play by the rules.
- 4.2 Never shout at or argue with a game's official, with their coach, their team-mates, opponents or supporters.
- 4.3 Never use violence towards team-mates, coaches, officials, opponents, or supporters.
- 4.4 Accept the decisions of referees and other officials.
- 4.5 Never use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players.
- 4.6 Never spread rumours.
- 4.7 Never tell lies about adults or other young people.
- 4.8 Never play or train if they feel unwell or are injured.
- 4.9 Never use unacceptable language or racial and/or sectarian or homophobic references towards a team-mate, an opponent, a fellow player, coach, official or supporter by words, deeds, or gestures.
- 4.10 Never consume non-prescribed drugs or performance enhancing supplements.
- 4.11 Never use social media to discuss team-mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or other individuals.
- 4.12 Never use social media or social media apps to distribute or redistribute offensive content or to taunt, bully or racially abuse others.

#### **5 Young Players on Adult teams**

- 5.1 The progression of a player from underage grades to adult teams is always welcomed and may come sooner for some rather than others.
- 5.2 While it is not unusual for players under 18 years of age to be part of adult club teams their participation requires additional attention as they still legally hold recognition as a child which their parents, fellow players, mentors, Club and Association must recognise and uphold. This may require their fellow team members being spoken to by the team mentors so as to address the legal status of the under 18-year-olds and to emphasise that adults must always conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and an assurance that the adults will not encourage or facilitate the under 18-year-olds to participate in adult related socialising or activity.
- 5.3 Mentors of adult teams that include underage players must be vetted, must have attended child safeguarding training and must have a minimum coaching qualification.