

# The Gaelic Games Council of Britain (GGCB)

## Referees Code of Behaviour

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Throughout the GGCB Code of Behaviour for working with Young Players/Children under 18 years of age emphasis has been placed on the need to co-operate with and facilitate those who organise and deliver our games and activities.
- 1.2 Referees, and other officials who officiate our games, are key people in the delivery of our games and should always be respected and assisted in their role.
- 1.3 Referees are conscious of the fact that they are instrumental in ensuring our games are played in a sporting manner and in accordance with the rules of the game.
- 1.4 Players, coaches, mentors, parents/guardians and other Club personnel have a key role to play in the delivery of this aspect of our gaelic games particularly when working with underage players.
- 1.5 The manner, in which we accept the role, authority and decisions of a referee will naturally be scrutinised very closely by our underage players and adults need to show good example to players and to their children in how they show their respect to referees and other match officials.
- 1.6 Parents and Clubs should encourage underage players, at an appropriate age level, to attend referee training courses and to subsequently officiate age-appropriate games which could result in refereeing being their preferred pathway or role in our Gaelic Games Associations.
- 1.7 Any referee, under 16 years of age, must be accompanied by a suitable adult who shall act as a Supervisor to the Referee. This Supervisor must fulfil the requirements of a Supervisor as outlines elsewhere in the Code of Behaviour (Underage).

### 2. In their capacity as referees of underage games we expect referees to:

- 2.1 Apply the playing rules on an impartial and consistent basis.
- 2.2 Act with integrity and objectivity in all games.
- 2.3 Communicate decisions to players and team officials in an effective and constructive manner in consideration of the age groups playing our games.
- 2.4 Deal with dissent firmly and fairly.
- 2.5 Work as a team with other match officials.
- 2.6 Maintain composure regardless of the circumstances.
- 2.7 Avail of assessments and supports to improve performance.
- 2.8 Uphold and implement the Give Respect – Get Respect initiative at all levels.
- 2.9 Report any misconduct of players, team officials and supporters, conscious of the fact that such matters may be followed up by the Club or County Children's Officers.
- 2.10 Undertake agreed vetting and background Police checks within the jurisdiction in which they officiate and attend relevant child safeguarding training.

**Players, coaches, supporters, parents/guardians, and other Club personnel should recognise the pivotal role that referees play in our underage games and should always support them when fulfilling their roles.**