

The Gaelic Games Council of Britain (GGCB)

Code of Behaviour for Clubs

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Clubs that cater for underage players must do so with a child centred approach and philosophy that recognises that maintaining best practice in the safeguarding of children and young people is paramount at all times.
- 1.2 Clubs must ensure that those chosen to work on their behalf with underage players have been selected following thorough recruitment, selection, and training procedures.
- 1.3 Coaches are required to:
 - **Undertake agreed vetting and background police checks within the jurisdiction(s) in which they operate (DBS for England and Wales and PVG for Scotland).**
 - **Attend relevant Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding training and update as required**
 - **Possess a coaching qualification relevant to their role as recognised by their Association.**
- 1.4 A number of non-coaching roles with children, carried out on behalf of the Club, may also require that some of the above conditions are met, prior to commencing such roles.
- 1.5 While the purpose of any specified role and the frequency of activity by an individual may influence what recruitment criteria must be met, Clubs are advised that they should act on the side of caution and where, deemed appropriate seek the vetting and child safeguarding training of individuals relevant to their roles. Such individuals could include bus drivers of underage teams employed by the Club, parents who regularly drive children to games on behalf of the Club, physios etc
- 1.6 All of the above are part of a range of support services that are available from Clubs for those seeking to work with children in our Associations. Such requirements are elaborated in greater detail in *Section 5 of the Code of Behaviour (Underage), the Recruitment and Selection of Coaches and other Volunteers.*
- 1.7 Clubs must ensure that those chosen to work with children and young people are at all times competent and confident in their roles. Clubs are to ensure that members have received relevant child welfare and sports related training, as provided or instructed by GGCB, to enable them to fulfil such roles.

2. Clubs should promote quality participation by:

- 2.1 Adopting the Code of Behaviour (Underage) as a basic level of agreement between the Club and their players, their coaches, parents/guardians and supporters and others who work with young people.
- 2.2 Leading by example and ensuring that a user friendly and child centred approach is adopted in our work with young people and that equal opportunities are available for all to participate in our games and activities, regardless of an individual's ability.
- 2.3 Developing effective procedures for responding to and recording all attendances, incidents, accidents, and injuries.
- 2.4 Ensuring that any concerns of abuse or alleged breaches of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) are recorded and acted upon, without delay, in accordance with the Association procedures.

- 2.5 Ensuring that all Club personnel are made aware as to the identity of their Club Children's Officer and their Designated Liaison Person and that these persons and their deputy officers are suitably trained for their roles.
- 2.6 Availing of relevant information on health and wellbeing initiatives for young people and other club personnel including the Healthy Club Project.
- 2.7 Distributing information on Anti-Bullying strategies in our work with young people and by adopting and implementing the Anti-Bullying statement in the Club.

3. Clubs should encourage the participation of their members by:

- 3.1 Agreeing the role of each and every coach or mentor working with young people.
- 3.2 Adopting and implementing clearly defined recruitment and selection procedures when choosing coaches and other relevant personnel to work with young people.

4. Encourage the participation of young players by:

- 4.1 Ensuring that training schedules, playing rules, use of equipment and length of games are structured to facilitate greater participation by all young players, and are suitable to all age categories, and to the ability and maturity level of players.
- 4.2 Not imposing responsibilities or roles on young people that may be inappropriate to their age.
- 4.3 Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of all players and treating them equally regardless of their age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
- 4.4 Creating pathways for young people to participate in our games not just as players but by affording them other developmental opportunities including training to become referees, coaches etc.
- 4.5 Ensuring that when the team may travel away and stay overnight that separate sleeping facilities are provided for all adults and for young people. Similarly, for mixed groups, separate sleeping quarters for males and females shall be required.
- 4.6 When a group consists of both males and females, that an adequate adult to player ratio of male and female coaches is present, in accordance with Association agreed adult to child supervision ratios.

5. Encourage the participation of parents/guardians by:

- 5.1 Encouraging parents/guardians to become members of their Club and to make themselves aware as to the running of juvenile games and activities and to the rules and codes that direct us in our work.
- 5.2 Welcoming all parents/guardians to attend the games and training sessions that relate to their children. Information relating to such events should be made known to them at all times.
- 5.3 Informing parents/guardians as to the identity of their Children's Officer. This person should be available to assist with any concerns or enquiries that parents/guardians may have regarding the welfare and safety of children and young people in the Club and the implementation of the Code of Behaviour (Underage).

6. Develop best practice in club structures and administration by:

- 6.1 Ensuring that the Juvenile Section of the Club is structured in accordance with good practice guidelines and that young people are afforded a role in decision making at an appropriate level.
- 6.2 Ensuring all those eligible to participate in their age-appropriate team within the Club are provided with an opportunity to do so.
- 6.3 Ensuring that all Club members are aware as to their responsibilities to all children and young people.
- 6.4 Appointing a Children's Officer (and Deputy Children's Officer) whose role shall include the monitoring of the child centred ethos of the Club and compliance with any policies and guidelines as issued by the Club, by our Associations, or by statutory authorities and agencies in their jurisdiction.
- 6.5 Appointing a Designated Liaison Person (and Deputy Designated Liaison Person) whose role shall include the liaising with the Associations DLP/Mandated Person, Statutory Authorities and assisting members in relation to the reporting of allegations, concerns and/or suspicions of child abuse.
- 6.6 Ensuring that all players are covered by their relevant Injury Scheme and that all premises etc. in use by your Club and players are equally covered for property/liability insurance as deemed necessary.
- 6.7 Adopting procedures that facilitate the privacy and safety of all young people in the Club and that all such procedures are maintained and regularly reviewed so, as to ensure that young people feel safe and are safe in the Club.
- 6.8 Seeking the agreement of parents/guardians when their sons/daughters under 18 years of age are invited into adult squads. Being aware of boundaries of behaviour in adult groups are normally different from the boundaries that apply to underage teams and squads.
- 6.9 Appointing a Club Code of Behaviour (Underage) Hearings Committee, comprising of three people, as outlined in detail in the Code of Behaviour (Underage). This Committee shall be appointed and mandated by the Club Executive to hear any alleged breaches of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) and to reach a determination following their enquiries as to what sanction, if any, may apply in the event of a breach of the Code of Behaviour (Underage).
- 6.10 Adopting, on an annual basis, the Club Child Safeguarding Statement, with amendments, if necessary, which must be made known to Club members and put on prominent display in the Club premises.
- 6.11 Ensure that Club members are aware of our Child Safeguarding procedures including the policy documents Code of Behaviour (Underage) and the Guidance on Dealing and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse and of our responsibilities to report concerns and allegations of abuse to the relevant statutory authorities and to the Associations DLP/Mandated Person, as required.