



# **Our Lady's Island GAA – Code of Conduct & Best Practice**

**Effective Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

**Approved By:** Club Executive Committee

**Review Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> November 2026

## **1. Purpose**

This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all members, players, coaches, officials, parents/guardians, and supporters of Our Lady's Island GAA. It is designed to promote respect, safety, inclusion, and the spirit of Gaelic games, in line with the GAA's *Code of Behaviour (Underage)* and *Code of Best Practice*.

## **2. Scope**

This Code applies to:

- All club activities, including training, matches, events, and social functions.
- Behaviour in public, online, and in any setting where members represent the club.

## **3. Core Principles**

### **3.1 Respect for All**

- Treat all individuals — teammates, opponents, officials, and supporters — with dignity and courtesy.
- Accept decisions of match officials without argument or abuse.
- Promote fair play and good sportsmanship at all times.

### **3.2 Commitment & Effort**

- Attend training and matches regularly, arriving on time and prepared.
- Give your best effort in all activities and support your teammates.
- Notify coaches or managers in advance if unable to attend.

### **3.3 Positive Communication**

- Use respectful, encouraging language at all times.
- Avoid abusive, aggressive, or discriminatory remarks.
- Provide constructive feedback in a calm and respectful manner.

### **3.4 Safety & Wellbeing**

- Wear appropriate protective equipment (mouthguards, helmets, etc.).
- Follow warm-up and cool-down routines to prevent injury.
- Report injuries, unsafe conditions, or welfare concerns immediately.
- Alcohol, drugs, or performance-impairing substances are prohibited during club activities.

### **3.5 Representation of the Club**

- Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects positively on the club.
- Follow the club's social media and communications policy.
- Avoid behaviour that could damage the club's reputation.

### **3.6 Zero Tolerance for Misconduct**

- Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or discrimination will not be tolerated.
- Breaches will be addressed through the club's disciplinary procedures.

### **3.7 Support for Youth Development**

- Encourage young players to enjoy the game and develop at their own pace.
- Parents/guardians should support without applying undue pressure.

- Focus on participation, learning, and enjoyment over winning.

### **3.8 Inclusion & Equality**

- The club welcomes members from all backgrounds and abilities.
- We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all.

## **4. Disciplinary Procedures**

### **1. Reporting a Breach**

- Any member may report a breach of this Code to the Club Children's Officer, Chairperson, or Secretary.

### **1. Initial Review**

- The Club Executive will review the matter and determine if further action is required.

### **1. Investigation**

- Where necessary, an impartial investigation will be conducted, ensuring confidentiality and fairness.

### **1. Possible Outcomes**

- Verbal or written warning
- Suspension from training/matches
- Removal from club membership

### **1. Right of Appeal**

- Members have the right to appeal decisions in accordance with GAA rules.

## **5. Acknowledgement**

All members, parents/guardians (for underage players), and coaches must sign this Code of Conduct annually to confirm their understanding and agreement.

**Member Name:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name (if under 18):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_