



BRIDGE UNITED

GOREBRIDGE, CO KILKENNY

Our Clubs mission is to provide football opportunities for young People. Our first priority in this is children's safety and enjoyment of sport. Coaches, Parents, Guardians, Club Officials and indeed players themselves all have an important role to play in achieving this by promoting good practice. Below are general guidelines to be followed. A full comprehensive model of good practice can be found on the F.A.I website and by downloading the safe sports app. The Club is immensely proud of the commitment and calibre of our players, coaches and adult body. The purpose of this outline is to prevent problems that might occur.

Players:

Players at all ages are asked to play fairly, do their best and have fun. They should respect opponents, shake hands before and after matches and accept apologies where offered. They should respect Team members and support them both when they do well and when things go wrong. They should be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Players should not cheat, use abusive language or argue with coaches, match officials teammates or opponents. They should use physical contact only as allowed by the rules of the game. They should not bully, tell lies, spread rumours or take banned substances. They should report any concerns about their own welfare or that of others to a responsible adult (see below for contact numbers).

Parents/ Guardians:

Parents/Guardians are asked to encourage fair play. They are asked to teach their child to treat referees, coaches, officials and spectators with respect. They are asked to attend training and matches where possible. They should give the coach help when asked and support decisions made by coaches and referees. They should be positive or be quiet. They are asked to communicate health concerns to the coach and be prompt in confirming availability for matches.

Parents/ Guardians should never ridicule or shout at a child, put undue pressure on a child or treat the club as a child minding service. They should not insult or abuse club officials, encourage cheating or 'dirty play' or behave with physical or verbal aggression. They should never ignore or dismiss complaints from a child, particularly complaint related to children's well-being within the club. In this regard Parents/Guardians should also note the contact numbers below:

Coaches:

In promoting good practice coaches are asked to act as good role models for the players in their care. They should encourage and be positive. All activities should be inclusive, putting the welfare of players first and strike a balance between this and achieving results. Each player should be treated with dignity and respect. Training sessions should be planned and the coach should ensure adequate levels of supervision. The coach should involve Parents/Guardians and Club Officials in what they do and consult where problems arise.

There should be regular checks on equipment and facilities. Parents/Guardians should be informed of the starting and finishing times of training and matches and of injuries/illness which their children occur. Coaches are asked to encourage participation and fun, discourage dissent and insist on fair play. They are asked to be realistic with expectations and be aware of children's feelings. Coaches should not take sessions alone, take children to their homes or on journeys alone. They should not use any form of physical punishment, or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind or make suggestive comments about or to a child/young person. Coaches are advised that the club considers group texting as the appropriate form of contact preferably to a Parent/Guardians number.

Club Contacts:

In the event of Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Players or Club Officials having concerns about the safety or well-being of our children, we would ask that The Club members below be contacted immediately.

John McDonald, Child Protection Officer (087)4129215

Jim O Connell, Club Secretary: (086) 3841726