



Code of Conduct for St. Mary's Bord na nÓg

Version: V11

Replaces: n/a

Approved by: Bord na nóg

Date: April 2019

All players are expected to comply with the whole thrust of the code of conduct as outlined. Players who breach the guidelines may be disciplined or expelled from the club.

Young players are entitled to:

- Be safe and to feel safe
- Have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment and enjoy sport
- Be treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality
- Participate in games and competitions at levels with which they feel comfortable
- Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner
- Be protected from abuse
- Be listened to and be believed

Young players should always:

- Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves
- Respect fellow team members regardless of ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religion beliefs – even when things go wrong
- Support fellow team members regardless of whether they do well or not
- Represent their team, their Club and their family with pride and dignity
- Respect all coaches, officials and their opponents
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory
- Shake hands before and after a game as part of the Give Respect Get Respect initiative, irrespective of the result
- Inform their Coach/Mentor/Manager in advance if they are unavailable for training and games
- Take due care of Club equipment. Club facilities must be respected and kept clean, tidy and free from litter. Players will be responsible for any damage they cause to club property or any property while engaging in club activity
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions they may have

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Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour and the Club's Code of Discipline – we ask that players never:

- Cheat – always play by the rules
 - Shout at or argue with officials, with their Coach, their team mates or opponents
 - Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
 - Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players
 - Spread rumours
 - Tell lies about adults or other young people
 - Play or train if they feel unwell or are injured
 - Use unacceptable language or racial and/or sectarian references
 - Take photos in dressing rooms/showers/toilets
 - Harm team members, opponents or their property
 - Take banned substances. Smoking or drinking of alcohol is unacceptable and will not be tolerated whilst any player is participating in club activities
 - Leave the playing/training field during Bord na nÓg activity without the consent of the team mentor(s)
 - Wear body-jewellery during training and games
 - Chew gum during training and matches on the grounds of safety
 - Be on Gael-scoil property without permission
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Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians should encourage their child to:

- Always play by the rules
- Improve their skills levels
- Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to exercise, food, rest and play

Parents/Guardians should lead by example:

- Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games
- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise
- Do not exert undue pressure on your child
- Never admonish your own child or any other child for their standard of play

Parents should be realistic in their expectations

- Show approval for effort, not just results
- Avoid asking a child or young person, 'How much did you score today?' or 'What did you win by?' or 'What did you lose by?' Ask them '**Did they enjoy themselves.**'
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player
- Applaud good play from all teams
- Do not criticise playing performances. Identify how improvements may be made
- Do not seek to unfairly affect a game or player
- Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge
- Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms

Parents/Guardians must:

- Complete and return the registration/permission and medical consent forms for their child's participation in the Club
- Inform the coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel, of any changes in their child's medical or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games or other activities
- Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities. Know the finish times of training - ensure that you arrive at the end of training
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of our games including for example mouthguards, togs & socks in club colours, etc
- Arrange to have their child brought to/collected from all club related activities
- Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met
- Listen to what their child may have to say
- Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game
- Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in games
- *Abide by the team ethos as laid out by the club coaches at the different age groups as regards participation versus competition*

Parents/Guardians should assist their club by:

- Showing appreciation to volunteers, coaches and Club officials
- Attending training and games on a regular basis
- Assisting in the organising of Club activities and events as requested



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- Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion
- Not entering team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach(es) so as to protect the privacy of other underage players
- *Not approaching any member of a coaching team with suggestions as regards team play, team selection etc. unless otherwise requested to do so.*
- *Never communicating with any member of the coaching team in a critical or unfair manner following a match (in person or by text/phone/email) – particularly in relation to team selection or team play.*

Parents/Guardians have the right to:

- Know their child is safe and to make a complaint if they believe that their child's safety is in any way compromised
- Be informed of problems/concerns relating to their child
- Be informed if their child gets injured
- *Raise any issue with the coaching team that has responsibility for their son/daughter provided it is done in a respectful manner, is done at a suitable time and takes into account all salient factors*
- *Avail of the club grievance procedure which is as follows:*

1.	<i>Any parent who may be unhappy with any aspect of the coaching that is being provided to their son/daughter can, in the first instance, raise the issue with any member of the coaching team.</i>
2.	<i>If, following stage 1, there is no satisfactory resolution to the issue this can be escalated to the Club Coaching Officer for further discussion or investigation.</i>
3.	<i>Further escalation may be required in extreme circumstances to the Bord na nÓg Chairman – the Chairman can make a determination whether the Executive is required to be involved or informed.</i>

The executive committee of the club reserves the right to review the above Code of Conduct and execute alterations if deemed necessary.

Please remember the golden rules:

- **The players are children.**
- **The coaches are volunteers.**
- **The referee's are trying to be fair.**
- **This is meant to be fun.**

Appendix Three - Codes of Conduct for all Under-age Coaching Teams

(New Code of Conduct – not in place previously)



**St. Mary's GAA Club
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Code of Conduct - Personal

- The safeguarding of the young players is our primary concern
- Show approval for effort, not just results
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player
- Respect the dignity of every person and treat each one equally regardless of age, gender ability ethnic origin, cultural background or religion
- Be positive during coaching sessions, games and other activities so that participants always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Coaches should lead by example
- Do not smoke while working with young players
- Do not consume alcohol or non-prescribed drugs immediately prior to or while young players are in your care
- Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials
- Promote Fair Play
- Encourage parents to become involved in our activities
- Don't shout at or lecture players or reprimand/ridicule them when they make a mistake.
- Children learn best through trial and error.
- Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with children based on mutual trust and respect.
- Challenge bullying in any form whether physical or emotional. Bullying is not acceptable behaviour be it from a young person, mentor, parent or guardian.
- A coach cannot be in a situation where you are alone in a car or dressing room with a player
- A coach cannot take coaching sessions on your own
- A coach cannot take young players to your home
- Ensure that all players are suitably and safely attired to play their chosen sport
- Be punctual and properly attired
- Use mobile phones, if deemed appropriate only via a group texts system for communicating with the parents/guardians of players and receive such permission at the commencement of each season
- Do not communicate individually by text with under age players. All players from U6 to U18 grade. A coach can communicate to the U18 grade with parental consent.
- Ensure that all dressing rooms and the general areas that are occupied by your player and other club personnel, prior to, during or immediately following the completion of any match are kept clean and are not damaged in any way
- Make adequate provision for First Aid services
- Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured or unwell.
- If a club player under your charge must attend A&E ensure someone from the coaching team also calls up; ensure a follow-up with the parents the following day



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Appendix Three (contd) - Codes of Conduct for all Under-age Coaching Teams

Code of Conduct – Sport Related

- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise – lead by example
- Recognise the development needs and capacity of all young players, regardless of their ability, by emphasising participation for all while avoiding excessive training and competition
- Develop an understanding of relevant coaching methods and ensure that you have the appropriate level of coaching accreditation
- Don't equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies
- The level of improvement made by young players is the best indicator of effective coaching
- Do not criticise playing performances - Identify how improvements may be made
- Liaise closely with players regarding County Development squads and academies
- Arrange one trip away outside the county for the panel in the year

