

## **GAA Young Players Code of Behaviour**

This code of behaviour outlines the minimum standards of behaviour we require for players and team members at underage level. It also outlines more serious breaches and resulting sanctions. It covers all members playing at underage level, including those playing minor who have reached the age of 18.

The formulation of this code is based on creating a safe and enjoyable environment for all of those voluntarily involved in the playing and mentoring of Gaelic Football, Hurling and Camogie at Bray Emmets GAA Club.

### **Code of behaviour:**

- Respect shall be shown to fellow players, mentors and officials of the club at all times
- Co-operation with mentors and club officials at all times in the interest of all
- Care for property of club and fellow players' possessions and equipment shall be shown
- Greater emphasis shall be placed on praise and positive re-enforcement than sanction in the Club
- The emphasis of the club, while recognising the individuality of all players, will be to foster the principles and ideals of cooperation and teamwork at all times
- Parents will be informed at all times should a problem arise with regard to a player

While promotion of the code at club level may be seen as the responsibility of the children's officer, ultimately it is the responsibility of all to ensure it is implemented.

Breaches of the code may occur from time to time. This may happen as a result of carelessness or a lack of understanding. All breaches will be noted in writing by the mentor or official associated with the player.

There may be, in some instances, a deliberate or indeed calculated breach of the code. In such instances the club will have no option but to implement a sanction or course of sanctions. This will be decided by the club Children's Officer and Officer of the Coiste na nÓg in conjunction with the mentor(s) in charge.

All breaches of the code will be dealt with in a fair and impartial manner. No formal meetings will take place with an underage player without the presence of a parent/guardian. Any action taken will be proportionate to the alleged breach that may have taken place.

ANY ONE, OR COMBINATION, OF THE FOLLOWING WILL BE DEEMED AS UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO SANCTION AND FORMAL MEETING WITH PARENT AND PLAYER: (before resorting to sanction, normal channels of communication and investigation between officials and players and parents will be utilised)

- Use or continued use of inappropriate language (swearing) in training or on the playing field
- Lack of respect show to fellow players or team mentors
- Continued slagging of or laughing at fellow players' performance
- Repeated disruption of training sessions
- Repeated failure to follow mentors instructions that is in the interest of health and safety of all

- Conduct detrimental to the reputation of Bray Emmets GAA Club

The following will be deemed as gross misconduct and shall authorise the Coiste na nÓg or Board to sanction suspension from the club for a period, or periods, deemed necessary by the Coiste: (before resorting to sanction, normal channels of communication and investigation between officials and parents will be utilised)

- Intentional damage to club property
- Foul or abusive language directed at any member or official of the club
- Violent or intentionally violent behaviour directed at any player (opponent or teammate), club official, mentor or referee

It has furthermore been decided for player welfare, insurance and health and safety purposes that no player this season and in future seasons will be able to participate in club activities until such time as full registration is complete and paid along with the reading and understanding of the Club Code of Behaviour.

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER: The Bray Emmets Child Protection Officer for 2023 is Suzanne Byrne. Suzanne can be contacted at 086-3622611

More details can be found at <http://www.gaa.ie/clubzone/child-welfare-and-protection/>

#### **YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO:**

- Be safe and feel safe.
- Have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment.
- Be treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity.
- Comment and make suggestions in a constructive manner.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Participate in games and competitions at levels with which they feel comfortable.
- Be afforded adequate and meaningful playing time to assist in the development of their playing skills, within their own age group and in accordance with Rule.
- Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- Be protected from abuse.
- Be listened to.

#### **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.

- 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.
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions they may have.
- Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour and their Club's Code of Discipline.
- Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed in any way.

**YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ENGAGE IN GOOD PRACTICE:**

- Never cheat – always play by the rules.
- Never shout at or argue with a game's official, with their Coach, their team mates or opponents and should never use violence.
- Accept the decisions of referees and other officials.
- Never use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players.
- Never spread rumours.
- Never tell lies about adults or other young people.
- Never play or train if they feel unwell or are injured.
- Never use unacceptable language or racial and/or sectarian references to an opponent, a fellow player or official by words, deeds or gesture.
- Never consume non-prescribed drugs or performance enhancing supplements.
- Never use social media to discuss team mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or other individuals.