



## Players Code of Conduct

### **Young players who play for Graigie Ballycallan GAA Club should:**

- 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
- Participate in games and competitions at levels with which they feel comfortable
- Be listened to
- Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves
- Respect fellow team members regardless of ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion
- Support fellow team members whether they do well or not so well
- Respect their team, their club and their family with pride and dignity
- Respect all coaches, mentors, officials and their opponents
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory
- Shake hands before and after their games irrespective of the result
- Promote the RESPECT campaign amongst fellow players, coaches, parents and supporters
- Bullying is not acceptable behaviour be it from a young person, coach, parent/guardian, spectator or match official

### **Young players who play for Graigie Ballycallan GAA Club should not:**

- *Cheat – always play by the rules*
- *Spread rumours*
- *Tell lies about adults or other young people*
- *Shout or argue with an official, team mates or opponents or use violence*
- *Use unfair or bullying tactics (verbally, physically or via social media eg Facebook, Twitter, or gain advantage or isolate other players*
- *Play or train if they feel unwell or injured*
- *Use unacceptable language or racial and/or sectarian references*

# Graigie Ballycallan GAA Club Juvenile Section



## Parents Code of Conduct

### Parents/Guardians should encourage their child to:

- Always play by the rules
- Improve their skill levels
- Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability

### Parents/Guardians should lead by example:

- Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games
- Respect official's 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
- Be realistic in your expectations
- Show approval for effort, not just results
- 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
- Promote the RESPECT campaign amongst players, coaches, parents and supporters
- Challenge Bullying in any form whether physical or emotional. Bullying is not acceptable behaviour be it from a young person, coach, parent/guardian, spectator or match official

### Parents/Guardians should:

- Drop off their children to training/matches on time and collect them from training/matches on time also. It is not the responsibility of the coach to wait with the child until the parent/guardian arrives. If for any reason you are running late please contact the coach who is with your child so that he/she can keep another adult on the premises with them while they await your arrival
- 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 related activities
- Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other related activities.
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as maybe required for the playing of our games, including for example two hurls per player, helmet, shin guards (when required), gum shields (compulsory for Gaelic football)
- Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game
- Please reply to messages with a Y/N to let the coaches know if your child will/will not be attending a training session or match



## Child Protection Policy and Code of Best Practice and Conduct

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### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

#### **Children are the most important members in our club**

Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club aim to promote the participation of children in our club by creating a culture of safety and fun.

*"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them"*

(Article 19: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. Ireland has adopted and is committed to the European Code of Sport Ethics which defines fair play as:

*"Much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption."*

(European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993)

**The Children's Act (2001) and The Children's First Act (2015) are** based on a clear and consistent set of principles designed with the common aim of promoting the welfare and safeguarding of children.

Children have the right to be safe. All coaches should ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedent over all other considerations.

All club members, through their actions reflect the principles and guidelines contained in the 'Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland'. We promote the aims and ideals of our Association, adhere to its policy and nurture our Gaelic culture.

# Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club Juvenile Section



## **2. STANDARDS SET BY GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN GAA CLUB WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ENSURING THE FOLLOWING:**

- Awareness of the issues which lead to children being harmed
- Safe recruiting procedures for coaches/volunteers, careful selection
- Provision of Irish Sports Council approved Child Protection awareness workshops for coaches and administrators
- Application of codes of behaviour for coaches/volunteers
- Application of codes of behaviour for children/young people
- Application of codes of behaviour for parents
- Application of good and safe working/playing practices
- Establishment of procedures for dealing with child protection issues/recording complaints/accidents. Report books detailing facts, witnesses, circumstances etc.
- Procedures relating specifically to bullying, away trips and photography
- Identification and maintenance of parental responsibility
- Availability of information – each parent should receive a copy or have access to the Child Protection Policy
- Regular review and monitoring of Child Protection procedures by the management committee
- All children are treated equally; the club will promote anti-discriminatory practices.

**The policy applies to all those involved in Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club as coaches, administrators, officials, volunteer drivers, parents/guardians and children.**

## **3. DESIGNATED PERSON (with respect to Child Protection)**

The 'contact person' or Designated Person within Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club is:

Name: Dave O'Neill

Address: Ballykeeffe, Co. Kilkenny

Tel No: 086-0671169

The name of the designated person shall be made known to all in the club. He is the person to whom child protection concerns will be addressed. If the concern is about the designated person, please report to the Kilkenny GAA County Chairperson.

The club has procedures in place for dealing with concerns or allegation of abuse or neglect either within the club or externally but the first point of contact for the child, parent/guardian or coach is the designated person. However, any individual has the right to contact Social Services or An Gardaí directly if they have any concern about a child's welfare.

# Graigie Ballycallan GAA Club Juvenile Section



## **4. CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER**

The Children's Officer (CO) is:

Name: John Kenny  
Address: Kilkeen, Kilmanagh, Co. Kilkenny  
Tel No.: 087-6900479

The Children's Officer is the link between youth mentors, members and management. It is essential that this communication line is clear and working. CO may be assisted by others who's details, along with the club Chairperson's, are prominently displayed in e.g. club changing rooms, offices and pavilion. The Children's Officer's function is to engender a child-centred club ethos, promote ethics and good practice, influence club policy and report to the management committee and designated person.

## **5. GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATION, IN PARTICULAR TEXTING**

### **What is the GAA proposing re texting information for underage players etc?**

Graigie Ballycallan GAA Club strongly recommends that when we pass on information regarding games, training or other activities for our underage players that we do so via group texts and that these group texts should preferably be sent to the parents of underage players. Coaches and/or the club Rúnaí should obtain these relevant numbers when an underage player is being registered. This recommendation only applies to underage players i.e. under 18 years of age

### **Are there any exceptions to the proposal on texting?**

If, for whatever reason, a parent/guardian insists or requests that the information is sent directly by the club to their child and gives this request in writing the club may, if they so wish, accede to this request. However, if the club accedes to the request the information can only be sent as part of a group text and cannot be communicated individually to the underage player.

Graigie Ballycallan GAA Club would regard the individual texting of an underage player by their coach or mentor as being inappropriate and unnecessary. We do not wish to compromise the role of the coach and its best not communicate by mobile in such instances where the coach would have the personal mobile telephone number of a child and the child or young person could equally have access to the coach's telephone number as well

### **How do we interpret an underage player?**

An underage player is a person who is eligible to play in a game or event for person's under 18 years of age. Legislation in Ireland also defines a child as any person under 18 years of age and parents/guardians therefore have a particular level of responsibility for their child's welfare while they remain under 18 years of age. We use the terms child and young person frequently when we refer to underage players.

### **What if an underage player is on the club's senior panel?**

He same recommendation applies and parental/guardian permission must be sought if you wish to directly communicate with the young person as part of a group text scheme.

# Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club Juvenile Section



## 6. (a) GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ACCIDENTS

In the event of an accident the following procedure will be followed:

- Contact parents/guardians in the event of all accidents
- Fill in 2 copies of the Accident Form for ALL accidents. One copy to incident book/folder, other to designated person for filing/further action

For more serious accidents:

- Contact emergency services/GP if necessary
- Record detailed facts surrounding accident, witnesses atc
- Complete accident form/book as above
- All serious accidents should be reported through Kilkenny GAA County Secretary to Croke Park

## 6. (b) GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ALLEGATIONS/INCIDENTS

- Record all incidents reported or observed on an incident form, forward to the designated person.
- Ensure confidentiality – a ‘need to know basis’
- The designated person is responsible for report security
- Adhere to An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael’s *Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse 2*

## 7. GOOD AND SAFE WORKING/PLAYING PRACTICES

Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club will ensure:

- Promotion of a healthy lifestyle by practice and example
- Proper supervision of children within the club with adequate numerical and gender coach : child ratio
- Use of safe recommended equipment
- Supervision of equipment used
- A clearly defined, fenced play area that is safe from vehicular traffic
- Public Liability Insurance covering all members of the club
- Only children of a similar age will train/play together, no children training/competing with children two or more age groups older than their own group
- First aid assistance and first aid equipment is available in case of accident, with accident/incident books documented where necessary
- All accidents will be reported to parents/guardians
- Transport will be provided and supervised by volunteers in possession of driving licences and roadworthy vehicles only. Prior parental permission is essential as per registration form
- A safe environment for members
- On-going training and information for Leaders

# Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club Juvenile Section



- Implementation of policy and procedures in line with guidance from the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport
- Facilitation of open discussion on member protection issues
- Support to members who report allegations of abuse
- Suspected abuse information is treated confidentially
- Coaches to be made aware of any special needs (disability) relating to a child and respond accordingly
- Appropriate action is taken if members breach standards of reasonable behaviour
- The establishment and maintenance of a coaching register
- The setting of standards of good practice
- The Designated Officer has knowledge of Child Protection procedures and responsibility in reporting concerns
- That parents/guardians are kept informed and have access to the club's policy guidelines for away trips/overnight stays and use of photography/videos
- The implementation of good and safe working practice is developed to the mutual benefit of the member, local area and community

## **Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club has the right to:**

- Expect leaders to comply with its Code of Conduct
- Expect all children to maintain standards of reasonable behaviour
- Take appropriate action if members breach the Code of Conduct or Child Protection Policy
- Expect all members to undertake appropriate training when advised to
- Expect leaders will not abuse children physically, emotionally or sexually
- Take appropriate action in the of accusations
- Acquire pre-employment checks on all coaches
- Maintain records on individuals in line with advice from data protection agency, i.e. only hold records on individuals that they have justifiable reason for holding
- Adhere to An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael's *Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse*
- Adhere to An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael's *Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport*

## **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR CHILDREN**

### **Children are expected to:**

- Enjoy their GAA activity
- Keep within the defined area of the playing/coaching area
- Behave acceptably and listen to the coach
- Respect the GAA personnel and equipment
- Refrain from using bad language and racial/sectarian references
- Refrain from bullying and rough/dangerous play
- Respect other children and adults
- Keep safe

# Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club Juvenile Section



- Report inappropriate behaviour and risky situations
- Play fairly
- Respect officials and accept decisions
- Show appropriate loyalty and be gracious in defeat
- Respect opponents and team mates
- Not cheat
- Not use violence

## **Children have the right to:**

- Safety
- Be listened to
- Respect
- Privacy
- Enjoyment of sport in a safe environment
- Referral to professional help if necessary
- Protection from abuse
- Equality and fair involvement
- Experience competition and a healthy desire to win
- Be believed
- Ask for help

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with by the immediate coaches and reported to the designated person where deemed necessary. Persistent misbehaviour will result in dismissal from the club. Parents/guardians will be informed.

Dismissal can be appealed with final decisions taken by the club committee.

## **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

### **Parents are expected to:**

- Complete and return club registration form for Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club
- Deliver and collect children punctually
- Ensure child is properly attired for weather conditions
- Ensure proper kit is worn at all times
- Detail any health concerns or special needs pertaining to the child on the consent/registration form, particularly respiratory problems and allergies. Any health concerns should be notified to the coach before a match/training
- Inform the coach beforehand if the child is to be collected early
- Encourage the child to play to his/her best, fairly
- Show good example
- Encourage all children's efforts, listen and be positive
- Behave responsibly on side lines



# Graigie Ballycallan GAA Club Juvenile Section



- Appreciate and respect the coach
- Be realistic
- Ensure child's hygiene and nutritional requirements are met
- Promote child's participation for fun

## **Parents/Guardians have the right to:**

- Know the child is safe
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to the child
- Be informed if the child is injured
- Have consent sought for issues such as trips
- Contribute to decisions within the club
- Contribute if there is concern about the standard of coaching
- Have access to any policies or procedures

Any misdemeanour or breach of this code of conduct will be dealt with individually by a club official. Persistent misbehaviour will result in the parent/guardian being asked not to attend if their presence is detrimental to child welfare.

The ultimate action would be regrettably asking the child to leave the club.

***This policy is subject to review on an annual basis.***