



## Coaches and Volunteers Code of Conduct

Cumann Cluain Daimh adapts a child centred approach and philosophy in the running of the club to ensure that those working with children and young people are at all times provided a quality sporting and social programme, by working to an agreed philosophy and set of standards. Enforcement of this conduct is the responsibility of every member and any queries about this code should be referred to the Children's Officer or the Club Chairperson

### **1. All parents must:**

- 1.1 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all and treat everyone equably.
- 1.2 Not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.

### **2 Administrators within the club must:**

- 2.1 Make your club environment more user friendly by providing equal opportunities for all to participate.
- 2.2 Create pathways for young people to participate in Gaelic Games not just as a player, e.g. as a referee coach administrator etc.
- 2.3 Ensure that the types of programmes, rules, equipment length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age ability and maturity level of young players.
- 2.4 Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players and ensure volunteers are adequately trained.
- 2.5 Direct coaches and officials to highlight behaviour and skill development.
- 2.6 Ensure that everyone emphasises fair play, not winning at all costs.
- 2.7 Give a code of behaviour sheet to spectators, parents and coaches and players and encourage them to follow it.
- 2.8 Remember you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.

- 2.9 Maximise child safety by conducting volunteer screening and other child protection strategies.
- 2.10 Implement Policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohols and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- 2.11 Adopt and implement relevant sports safety policies and practices.
- 2.12 Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- 2.13 Listen to your players and involve them in the decision leadership and planning and evaluation relation to the club.
- 2.14 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability and cultural background or religion.

### **3 Coaches within the Club must:**

- 3.1 Remember that young people participate for the pleasure and winning is only part of the fun. Place the well-being and safety of any juvenile above the development of performance and adhere to all guidelines laid down by the club and the GAA in general.
- 3.2 Give young people the chance to try out different playing positions.
- 3.3 Create opportunities for participants to learn appropriate sports behaviour as well as basic skills.
- 3.4 Give priority to free play activities, skill learning and small-sided games over highly structured competitions.
- 3.5 Ensure that activities are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the young player.
- 3.6 Keep up to date with the coaching practices and qualifications and the principles of physical growth and development. Take responsibility for ensuring training is kept up to date and keep abreast of any developments within the association.
- 3.7 Ensure that you are working at a level commensurate with your coaching qualifications
- 3.8 Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- 3.9 Help young people understand that playing by the rules is their responsibly.
- 3.10 Always promote positive aspects of sport and never condone or participate in rules violation, bad sportsmanship, the use of foul and abusive language, the use of

sectarian language and banter, the use of prohibited substances, the use of gestures or emblems which could be interpreted as provocative.

- 3.11 Encourage young people to participate in administration, coaching and refereeing as well as playing.
- 3.12 Operate within the rules and spirit of the sports and teach your players to do the same.
- 3.13 Relate to officials in a courteous and polite way.
- 3.14 Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- 3.15 Implement relevant sport safety policies and practices.
- 3.16 Arrive on time for all coaching sessions, competitions, social occasions and coaches must inform an appropriate person if they are unable to attend.
- 3.17 Encourage and guide young people to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance and encourage young people to feel confident and comfortable in making personal choices.
- 3.18 Ensure attendance records are kept of all recognised club sessions with the attendance of each participant noted appropriately. A club incident form must be used to record any accidents, injuries or untoward events.
- 3.19 Implement policy practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relations to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- 3.20 Listen to your players and ensure that the time they spend with you is a positive experience.
- 3.21 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

**Youth team Mentors/Managers:**

- Shall be selected rather than elected
- Shall be paid-up members of The Club
- Shall be female as well as male
- Must act with decorum at all times
- Undertake or work towards a minimum Foundation Level Coaching Award
- Study the Juvenile Mentor Policy particularly in relation to discipline

- Ensure that all Youth players are enrolled as Youth members of the Club.  
Application form to be countersigned by a parent
- Shall nominate a member of each Juvenile Management team to sign team sheets
- Shall issue a definite timetable outlining practice sessions and games as far as is possible.
- Shall agree a venue for meeting before departure for away games. This will also be the drop off point following these games. Arrangements to be made with parents for collection of children after home and away games – in Clonduff GAA Club's case this is car park at Clubrooms.
- Must ensure that less-talented players are given a fair chance to improve their skills and are let participate in games.
- Endeavour to encourage a high level of sportsmanship among all their players
- Must encourage respect for all Match Officials
- Must confine themselves to the sidelines. Coaching from the end-line is prohibited and is not in the spirit of the game
- Ascertain (in so far as possible) any medical condition/history of Youth players to help determine treatment in case of accidents – this is declared in Youth Membership forms and will be communicated to mentors in confidence
- Encourage Youth players to play within their own age grades
- Attend a recognised First Aid and Defibrillator Course
- Ensure First Aid Bag is available at all training sessions as well as games
- Be aware of location of defibrillator for training sessions and home games
- Be aware of location of stretcher for training sessions and home games
- Never take a risk with the health of a young player. If necessary, leave injured player on field and summon medical help rather than moving him/her. Keep such player warm, comfortable and keep reassuring him/her
- Where necessary, bring injured player to doctor/hospital and notify parents as soon as possible (if they were not at the game)
- Following injury, maintain contact with player
- Complete accident/injury form
- Ensure that a member of the mentoring team is designated to send report of match to Secretary / PRO for inclusion on website and in weekly club notes

## Declaration

I understand and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action by the club committee.

In the case of coaches / mentors this declaration must contain all four signatures. If you are not involved in coaching (including Handball and Cultural Activities) the Coaching Officer's signature is not necessary.

Signed (Cathaoirleach) *Breandan O'Leary* Date: 01/01/2013

Signed (Rúnaí) *Anita Br. M. O'Sullivan* Date: 01/01/2013

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Coach / Volunteer

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Coaching Officer

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Children's Officer