

# Code of Behaviour Underage

This Code of Behaviour is one section, albeit a vital section, of the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport, Our Games – Our Code.

The Code of Behaviour addresses the minimum appropriate levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our Young Players, Coaches, Supporters, Parents/Guardians, Referees and Clubs.

The Gaelic Athletic Association, the Camogie Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, GAA Handball Ireland and the Rounders Council of Ireland have endorsed this Code so that it may act as a guidance for those who promote and deliver our Gaelic Games and assist them in complying with the highest possible standards in our work with children and young people.

Everyone involved in our sports and in our activities should accept the roles and responsibilities that they undertake as we commit ourselves to maintaining an enjoyable and safe environment for all. The safeguarding of our members will always be a key priority as we recognise that the welfare of the child is of paramount importance in our work.

This Code should be used in tandem with the overall Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport, Our Games – Our Code, where roles and responsibilities are outlined in greater detail. It is recommended that Coaches, Parents/Guardians and Players sign this Code of Behaviour and present the signed document, as a commitment of its implementation, to their Club Children's Officer.

Our aim is to ensure that young people and children who play our games receive the best possible care, attention and protection while participating in our Gaelic Games.

Should a breach of the Code be alleged, or when people may refuse to adhere to the contents of the Code, certain actions may be deemed necessary and appropriate so as to protect the integrity of our work with children and young people and also to ensure that they receive the best possible care, attention and protection while participating in our Games.

Alleged breaches of this Code may therefore be enquired into, regardless of where or when they occur, in accordance with the guidance contained elsewhere in this Code and with particular reference to the accompanying publication, 'Our Games Our Code: Dealing with Alleged Breaches of the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.' Following any such enquiry, and where deemed necessary, sanctions or disciplinary action may be taken against those who have been proven to have breached the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.

This Code applies to all underage players and those who assist them in the preparation and playing of our games, regardless of competition or age group. Clubs, County Boards and Games Officials who are responsible for organising our games at all levels are obliged to implement this Code in the preparation of their teams and players for all competitions and at all other levels including Club blitzes and competitions, County development squads and Inter -County games.

It is our wish that this Code is developed, promoted and implemented as an initiative that encourages fair play, respect, equality, safety and non discrimination in all aspects of our work with children and young people.

