



WELCOME TO DROMARA GAC

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP PACK



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Introduction to our Youth Members

Dromara GAC has great pleasure in presenting this Youth Pack to you as a valued member of our club and the Gaelic Athletic Association in general. We hope that by reading the contents you will have a greater understanding of how our Club works and the structures that we have put in place for you and all other members.

Foreword for Parents

We have taken the step of producing this document as a means of developing the lines of communication between the club and you as parents of our Youth Members. We believe that a strong line of communication is a vital component in the development of young people and also that it is of paramount importance in ensuring that you are aware of each and every developmental milestone that your son / daughter will attain within our Club.

We believe that it is crucial that all Youth Members, players or otherwise, are valued and at all times afforded the highest levels of respect. 'Their personal dignity and physical integrity are paramount and participation in sport should enable them to have fun, make friends and become better players.' In keeping with the G.A.A. philosophy of a true youth centred approach our Youth Committee seek to promote and develop our Youth Members ensuring they understand the importance of participation, enjoyment and equality. Our coaching and games development programmes are structured in such a manner as to assist our Youth Members to value discipline and to seek to achieve their full potential as they mature and develop within our Club environment.

We would ask that you peruse this document at your leisure and sign the appropriate sections and return to the team manager / mentor who is currently working with your son / daughter.

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Anthony McNeill

Chairman



CODE OF CONDUCT

Dromara GAC adopt a child centred approach and philosophy in the running of the club to ensure that those working with children and young people provide 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 the code should be referred to any coaching committee member or child liaison officer.

All members must:

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

Coaches within the club must:

- Place the well-being and safety of any juvenile above the development of performance, and adhere to all guidelines laid down by the GAA and Coaching committee.
 - Ensure they are working at a level commensurate with their coaching qualifications.
 - Take responsibility for ensuring training is kept up-to-date and keep abreast of any developments within the Association.
 - Ensure activities, that they are directing and advocating, are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the young player.
 - 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
 - Respect the club's facilities and equipment.
 - Never criticise other players or officials' judgement or use language or gestures, which may cause a young person to lose self-esteem or confidence.
 - Ensure car insurance is appropriate for transporting young people to and from events when necessary.
 - Arrive on time for all coaching sessions, competitions, and social occasions. Inform an appropriate person if they are unable to attend.
 - 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
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- 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 event.



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.

Signed: _____ Mentor / Coach

Signed: _____ Child Protection Officer

Signed: _____ Chairperson

CODE OF ETHICS



Juvenile Membership Rules

Dromara GAC is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well being of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the club must, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of everybody. Therefore all members are encouraged to be open at all times and share any concerns or complaints that they may have about anything with their respective Team Mentor.

All juvenile members must abide by the following rules:

1. All members must take reasonable action to ensure personal safety while they are at or representing the club.
2. No members from the club should ask anyone to withhold information of any kind unless a need-to-know basis is assumed.
3. Members of the club are not permitted to consume alcohol, smoke or take drugs of any kind on club premises. Members will not be permitted to take part in any club activity while they are under the influence of, or suspected of being under the influence of, alcohol or drugs. Members shall not promote or provide any drugs to another member on club premises.
4. Members will show respect towards their team-mates and mentors remembering that they are giving their time and expertise freely.
5. Members should be on time for training sessions, matches and competitions so as not to disrupt the smooth running of their team.
6. Members must pay any fees in relation to membership of the club or club activities on time, otherwise they will not be permitted to train or compete for their respective team(s).
7. Members are responsible for looking after their own equipment, clothing and property and they must ensure that it does not endanger any other members.
8. No jewellery, unsuitable clothing or footwear must be worn during practical sessions.
9. Members must endorse the fair play policy of the club.

IMPORTANT All members must don club colours when competing.

FAIR PLAY POLICY



- Player's play for enjoyment and to improve skills, not just to please parents or coaches.
- Players will attempt to understand and adhere to the rules of the game.
- Players must accept the decisions of the coach or officials.
- Players must be aware of their behaviour during training and matches.
- Players will treat all players, as they themselves would like to be treated.
- Players will co-operate with the coach and the team-mates at all times.
- The aim of the game is to have fun, improve skills and feel good.
- Players will work equally hard for themselves and the team.
- Coaches and managers of dual players will agree schedule for training, matches and competitions based on the well being and enjoyment of the child.

BILL OF RIGHTS

- RIGHT to participate in Gaelic Games.
- RIGHT to participate at a level relevant to ability and maturity.
- RIGHT to have qualified adult leadership.
- RIGHT to play as a child, not an adult.
- RIGHT to share in leadership & decision-making.
- RIGHT to participate in a safe & healthy environment.
- RIGHT to proper preparation for games.
- RIGHT to equal opportunity for success.
- RIGHT to be treated with dignity & respect.
- RIGHT to have fun and an opportunity to develop.

CHILD PROTECTION AND 'OUR DUTY TO CARE'



Dromara GAC has endeavoured to set out a flexible framework of sound principles and good practice guidelines.

The following is a synopsis of the policy and procedures set in place by the Youth Committee, at Dromara GAC and the steps being currently undertaken to ensure principles and guidelines of 'Our Duty to Care' are followed to the highest standard possible.

Dromara GAC have ensured that the following Child Protection Good Practice guidelines are in place:

- A Child Protection Policy.
- Recording and Reporting Procedures.
- Complaint's Procedures.
- Behaviour Management Procedures to Create a Safe Environment etc. Anti – Bullying Policy, Drug and Substance Misuse Policy.
- Designated person for Child Protection to deal with External and Statutory Agencies.
- Code of Conduct and behaviour for Coaches.
- Appropriate Training for Coaches in Relation to Child Protection.

Dromara GAC's Child Protection Policy Statement

Dromara GAC is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all Children And Young People who are involved in this Dromara GAC. It is the policy of Dromara GAC, that while in our care; children are kept Safe and Free from harm.

This will be done by:

1. Appointing One Designated Person.
2. Adhering To A Confidentiality Policy.
3. Issues Recording And Reporting Procedures For All Our Coaches And Ensure They Receive The Relevant Training In Relation To Child Protection.
4. Ensure All Our Coaches Adhere To Our Code Of Behaviour.
5. Create An Environment Where Parents And Children Feel Safe.
6. Make Parents Aware How They Can Voice Concerns Or Complaints.

Raising Awareness and Training in relation to Child Protection.



At Dromara GAC, all our coaches receive the following training in relation to Child Protection.

- ❑ Being Clear About What Abuse Is.
- ❑ Being Aware Of Who might Abuse Children.
- ❑ Being Able To Recognise Child Abuse.
- ❑ Taking Steps To Ensure Children Are Aware Of Their Rights And Responsibilities.
- ❑ Treating Children As Individuals And Encourage The Involvement Of Children.
- ❑ Taking All Reasonable Steps To Ensure That unsuitable People Are Prevented From Working With Children.
- ❑ Planning And Managing The Club's Activities And Minimising Opportunities For Children to Suffer Harm.
- ❑ Responding To Accidents And Complaints Or To The Alleged Or Suspected Incidents Of Child Abuse.
- ❑ Establishing Links With Parents, Other Clubs And Other Organisations.
- ❑ Recruitment And Selection Of Coaches And Use Of The Pre-Employment Consultancy Service

Reporting Allegations Of Suspicions Of Abuse.

Every club member should be aware of the persons within this club who should always be informed of any concerns about a child being abused.

Dromara GAC Child Protection Officer is the Chairman of Dromara GAC

Outside Agencies:

NSPCC Helpline: 028 90 351135

N.I. Childline: 028 90 327773

RECORDING:



Dromara GAC Incident Book (held by the Chairman) record: Date, Time etc, who is involved, and action taken (see below)

- Name and address of child
- Nature of any injury
- Need for medical attention
- Reason(s) for suspicion of abuse
- What measures you have taken (spoke to parents, other staff, etc)

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Procedures

Before the session, the person in charge must carry out the following checks:

- Ensure that the playing area and equipment are safe and free from obstacles, glass etc
 - Ensure that a vehicle has access to the play area
 - Ensure that a qualified first-aider is available
 - Ensure a well-stocked first aid kit is available
 - Ensure a telephone or radio link is available and in working order
- Following an injury, alert the first aider who should assess the situation and take appropriate action.
- Emergency services must be called, if appropriate
- Parents and guardians informed as soon as possible (to do this all coaches need contact numbers onsite).
- Accident reporting procedures must be implemented.

ACCIDENT / INCIDENT REPORT FORM



Coach Name _____

Address _____

Date and Time _____

Venue _____

Name of Child _____

Age and Gender _____ years old Male / Female

Accident / Incident

Action Taken:

Manager / Coach
Signature -----

Witness Signature -----

Childs Signature (Initial) -----

MEDICAL CONSENT FORM



This form should be completed by a parent/guardian before your child can participate. One form should be completed for each child/young person.

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Mobile Number: _____

School: _____

Name of Doctor: _____

Doctor's Address: _____

Doctor's Telephone No: _____

Child's Medical Number: _____

Any specific medical conditions requiring medical treatment and/or medication?

Yes If Yes, give details:

 No

Any allergies?

Yes If Yes, give details:

No



Any contact with contagious or infectious diseases within the last four weeks?

Yes If Yes, give details:

No

Please provide any special dietary requirements and the type of pain medication that may be given.

Parental Consent (to be signed for competitors under 18 years)

I, _____ being parent/guardian of the above named child hereby give permission for the Team Manager to give the immediate necessary authority on my behalf for any medical or surgical treatment recommended by competent medical authorities, where it would be contrary to my son/daughter's interest, in the doctor's medical opinion, for any delay to be incurred by seeking my personal consent.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ (consent by parent/guardian)

Date _____

NB. Please note that a young person can give their own consent for medical treatment if they are over 16.



DISCIPLINARY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

The Club should ensure that it has adequate disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedures in place. It is important to note that the investigation of suspected child abuse is the responsibility of the statutory authorities and will not be undertaken by the Child Protection Officer or other club Volunteers/Officials. The standard reporting procedure outlined in the Statutory Authorities guidelines should be followed by the club and adhered to by its members.

Procedure:

- A code of conduct reflecting a child centred ethos is in operation; this code has been disseminated throughout the club and is applied to all Youth Coaches.
- The Club Executive Committee deals with all disciplinary problems. Clearly defined procedures are in place to resolve problems relating to the conduct of its members. This includes bullying.
- The Executive Committee will initiate / establish a standing sub-committee to conduct an investigation following a complaint into any incident of suspect misconduct that does not relate to child abuse. The sub-committee will report back to the Executive Committee of progress of the disciplinary procedures.
- Written confidential records of all complaints are safely and confidentially kept and club procedures are defined for the possession of such records in event of the election of new officers.
- The sub-committee will furnish the individual details of the complaint being made against him/her and afford him/her the opportunity of providing a response either verbally or in writing.
- Where it is established that an incident of misconduct has taken place the sub-committee will notify the member of any sanction being imposed. The notification should be made in writing, setting out the reasons for the sanction. If the member is under 18 years of age, correspondence will be addressed to the parents/guardian.
- If the member against whom the complaint has been made is unhappy with the decision of the disciplinary committee s/he should have the right to appeal the decision to the Executive Committee. Any appeal must be in writing and must be received by the Secretary at the latest three days after the appeal.



- The Executive Committee will have the power to conform, set aside or change any sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee. If any party is not satisfied with the outcome the matter can be referred to the Down County Board. However efforts to resolve the issue will be exhausted before the Governing body is engaged in attempts to resolve the matter.

This document represents the working disciplinary procedures of Dromara GAC

Signed _____

Chairman

Signed _____

Secretary



BULLYING

At Dromara GAC we;

- Respect every child's need for, and rights to, a play environment where safety, security, praise, recognition and opportunity for taking responsibility are available.
- Respect for every individual's feelings and views.
- Recognise that everyone is important and that our differences make each of us special.
- Show appreciation of others by acknowledging individual qualities, contributions and progress.
- Ensure safety by having rules and practices carefully explained and displayed for all to see.

Bullying

- Bullying will not be accepted or condoned. All forms of bullying will be addressed.

Bullying can include:

- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc
 - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation and the continual ignoring of individuals
 - sectarian/racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
 - sexual comments and /or suggestions
 - unwanted physical contact
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- Children from ethnic minorities, disabled children, young people who are gay or lesbian, or those with learning difficulties are more vulnerable to this form of abuse and may well be targeted.
 - Everybody has the responsibility to work together to stop bullying – the child, the parent and the coach.
 - This club is committed to the early identification of bullying and prompt, collective action to deal with it.
 - Policy and practice will be agreed through consultation with the club, parents and children.
 - Children should be encouraged to take a role in stopping bullying in the club.
 - Policy and practice will be reviewed regularly in the light of changing needs and changes adopted by other agencies.
 - Coaches will be given support when dealing with a bullying incident.

Support to the Child



- Children should know who the name of the Dromara GAC Child Protection Officer.
- Any advice and assistance should be given by an experienced coach.
- Children should have access to Helpline numbers.
- Children should be told what is being recorded, in what context and why.
- Systems should be established to open the door to children wishing to talk about bullying or any other issue that affects them. Barriers to talking need to be broken down to enable children to approach adults.
- Anyone who reports an incident of bullying will be listened to carefully and be supported, whether the child being bullied or the child who is bullying.
- Any reported incident of bullying will be investigated objectively and will involve listening carefully to all those involved.
- Children being bullied will be supported and assistance given to uphold their right to play and live in a safe environment which allows their healthy development.
- Those who bully will be supported and encouraged to stop bullying.
- Sanctions involving long periods of isolation, or which diminish and make individuals look or feel foolish in front of others, should be avoided.

Support to the Parents

- Parents should be advised on club policy and practice about bullying.
- Any incident of bullying will be discussed with the child's parent(s).
- Parental advice on action will be sought and agreements made as to what action should be taken.
- Information and advice on coping with bullying will be given.

Support should be offered to the parent(s) including information on other agencies or support lines (e.g. Parentline 0808 800 2222)



The texting of under age players in the GAA by their Club or Club representative

Much publicity has arisen of late and many enquires have been made following media attention focussing on the GAA good practice recommendations regarding the use of text messages when passing on information for under age players.

What the GAA has proposed is contained in our Code of Best Practice, launched in April 2009, at our Annual Congress in Cork. The relevant information is also highlighted as part of our Child Protection Awareness workshops nationwide. The fact that media attention is now drawn to the Code is but a side attraction and if we can benefit from availing of media attention to project our message of good practice, so be it.

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

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

The GAA would regard the individual texting of an under age 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 to 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 coaches telephone number as well.

How do we interpret an underage player?

An under age player is a person who is eligible to play in a game or event for persons 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 yrs of age. We use the terms child and young person frequently when we refer to under age players.

Can we text county underage development squads and minor squads?



The recommended group text mechanism is still preferred but if you have parental/guardian permission to group text under age players you may avail of this option.

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

The 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.



Introduction:

When the effects of drug misuse or substance abuse are considered, the absolute necessity of directing, responses at prevention becomes apparent. People need to ensure that they work towards creating safe, healthy environments where young people develop the skills and attitudes necessary to cope with a more drug orientated society. In this context, the importance of having sound educational programmes cannot be underestimated.

Rationale:

The GAA and the Irish Sports Council are committed, as part of their overall philosophy, to:

'Discourage the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco on the basis that they are incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.'

Scope of Policy:

This policy is in force at all times at GAA facilities and during all activities conducted under the banner of the GAA.

Definition of Drugs:

For the purpose of this policy the term drug will be defined as all mood-altering substances, both legal and illegal, and involves substances such as tobacco, solvents and alcohol.

It is important that all Club members, officials, staff and mentors follow the law when it comes to illegal drugs and the use of alcohol and tobacco and display leadership and good example particularly when dealing with underage members.

Drug Education

Aim:

The aim of the drug education programme is to ensure that young people maintain a healthy lifestyle and a positive involvement in sport.

Best way of delivering the programme:

All drug education programmes should be structured in an age appropriate way and tailored to meet the needs of the various target groups i.e. mentors and players. Back-up support should be sought from existing statutory bodies as appropriate.



Code for Dealing with Drugs Misuse / Substance Abuse

The Club will endeavour to deal with any alcohol or illicit drug incident in a firm but fair manner, with due regard for the safety and welfare of the individuals involved, other members of the Association, the wider community, and to fulfil any legal obligations that might apply.

Outline of Restrictions:

The possession, use, supply or presenting under the influence of, alcohol or illicit drugs (improper or illegal use of solvents, magic mushrooms, medications) are viewed as unacceptable by the GAA.

Reporting of Incidents:

Suspected, alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy must be referred to the Chairman of the Club. He/She, in turn, will inform the Executive. The Executive will decide on the appropriate response.

Recording of Information:

Information regarding suspected, alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy received by the Executive will be minuted in the usual way. Only in confirmed cases will names of individuals be recorded. The recording of factual information only is preferable; opinions must be stated as such. Responses of the Executive to cases will also be recorded in this way.

Confidentiality:

While every effort will be made to respect confidentiality, it may not always be possible to guarantee confidentiality in relation to alcohol or illicit drug incidents.

Involving Parents/Guardians:

It will be standard practice to inform parents/guardians if their son/daughter is involved in an alcohol or illicit drug incident. Their involvement and support is seen as essential in the resolution of these difficulties. Parents/guardians will be invited to discuss what has happened and will be informed of the course of action to be taken.

Involving Police Authority:

In suspected or alleged incidents involving the supply of illegal drugs, it is policy to inform the relevant police authority. Police advice may also be sought on a case-by-case basis. The decision in this regard will rest with the Club Executive. The



Club also asserts its right to inform the relevant Police authority of any 'outside' drug activity affecting the welfare of the Club and its members.

Sanctions:

In the event of suspected/confirmed breaches of this code, the following sanctions may apply:

- No action taken
- Contact with parents/guardians of the individual/s involved.
- Referral to an appropriate support agency
- Appropriate disciplinary action to be taken by the GAA unit concerned
- Notifying the relevant Police Authority.

Search:

The Club retains the right to search any part of its property if there is reasonable cause to believe a substance in breach of this policy may be contained therein. Two officials/members of the club concerned must be present during any form of search. Where there is reasonable cause to believe a player (or others using the facilities) has on their person or in their possession a substance in breach of this policy, they will be asked to volunteer the substance. If they refuse, the relevant police authority may be called in to conduct the search.

Disposing of (Suspected) Illegal Drugs

If an illegal drug (or suspected illegal drug) is found on property or during related activity, it should be brought to the attention of the Chairman. It should be stored securely by officials/members of the club while the relevant Police authority are called to come and collect it. Two officials/mentors should be present during any procedures involving the handling of illegal substances.

First Aid and Emergency Procedures:

The normal medical / emergency procedures apply in relation to this programme.

Availability, Use and Storage of Solvents:

All solvent / gas-based materials should be stored securely.

Doping / Use of Performance Enhancing Substances / Methods:

In the interests of maintaining fair play it is important that players adhere to the guidelines set out in the GAA Anti-Doping Code.



PHOTOGRAPH / VIDEO CONSENT FORM

Dromara GAC feels it is important to recognize the achievements and successes of our youth and of the club as a whole. One of the ways to do this is to publish photographs and details of achievements in our local press, etc.

We take the issue of child safety very seriously and this includes the images of the children in our care. Our duty to our young members is paramount and this form of publicity must be carefully monitored to ensure that it is consistent with our Child Protection Policy and the Data Protection Legislation.

For this reason we have put the following guidelines into place:

- We ask parental consent for the club to take and use photographs of their children and for permission to use the press and media to promote the youth program.
- Photographs and interviews will at all times take place in the presence of a coach.
- We will only use team photographs and action photographs on our website, the website of other club and the press.
- Action and individual photographs will only be used, with individual parental consent, prior to the inclusion on the club website, promotional DVDs or in the local press.

I have read the conditions of use and consent to my child/children photograph being used. If there is any change to my decision I will inform the club.

Name of child/children: _____

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



YOUTH MEMBERSHIP FORM

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of Member: _____

Name in Irish (if known): _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Telephone No: (Home) _____

(Mobile) _____

MEDICAL DETAILS

Name of Doctor: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Medical Conditions (e.g. Asthma etc):

Special Needs: _____

We are currently trying to introduce a new text messaging / e-mail service. As part of this service you will receive a text message / e-mail informing you of youth meetings, football matches and changes to training sessions. If you would like to be part of this service please provide details below:

Mobile Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____



APPENDIX 'A'
CHILD PROTECTION / EQUITY
POLICY & PROCEDURES



Child Protection Policy Statement

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Committee of Dromara GAC on the 7th March 2010 and is in force at all facilities and during all activities conducted under the control of Dromara GAC.

The Child Protection Policy seeks to support children's development in ways, which will foster security, confidence and independence.

Dromara GAC is a Child Friendly Club and is fully committed to safe guarding the well being of its members. Every individual in the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for each others rights, safety and welfare regardless of a persons religion, gender, age, race, or ability and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principals of Dromara GAC and the guidelines contained in the **Code of Ethics** and **Good Practice for Children's Sport and** the GAA '**Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport**'.



PRINCIPALS

- Dromara GAC believes young people have a lot to gain from sport. It is important that all young players are valued and are always treated with the highest level of respect. Their personal dignity and physical integrity are paramount and participation in sport should enable them to have fun, make friends and become better players.
- Dromara GAC believes that a youth centred approach should be adopted by everyone involved in the promotion and development of Gaelic games at underage level.
- Dromara GAC will ensure that all their players are protected and kept safe from harm while they are with the Club by mentors / coaches adhering to the guidelines outlined in the Club's Child Protection Policy, the **Code of Ethics** and **Good Practice for Children's Sport and** the GAA '**Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport**' .
- Dromara GAC will ensure all team mentors are offered the opportunity to attend Child Protection Awareness training.
- Dromara GAC will ensure that all team mentors and club members are well informed about Child Protection issues and that they are familiar with the club's procedures for reporting concerns to the club's designated officer (Chairperson of the Club). In the case of concerns against the designated officer concerns should be reported to the Secretary of the club.
- Dromara GAC will promote co-operation with statutory agencies in response to Child Protection.
- Dromara GAC will ensure all team mentors are offered the opportunity to obtain the appropriate level of coaching accreditation.
- Dromara GAC will if appropriate take sanctions in the event of suspected / confirmed breaches of their Child Protection Policy as required.



Dromara GAC

Equality Statement

- Dromara GAC's aim is that the composition of the club reflects that of the community
- Dromara GAC will encourage people from all ethnic backgrounds to become involved with the club.
- Dromara GAC's membership is open to all persons regardless of age, gender, race, religion and ability, political opinion, marital status or sexual orientation.
- Between men and women generally.
- Between persons with a disability and persons without.
- Between persons with dependants and persons without.
- Dromara GAC permits all members over 16 years of age to vote, where possible. One parent / guardian may have one vote for all their children under 16 years of age, where relevant.



ROLE OF THE COACH / TEAM MENTOR

All Team Coaches and Mentors can ensure that sport has a beneficial impact when they adhere to the following guidelines:

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat each one equally regardless of age, gender, race, religion or ability.
- Be positive during coaching sessions so that the children leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Don't shout at or lecture players or reprimand / ridicule them when they make a mistake.
- Encourage parents / guardians to play an active role in the club.
- Never use foul language or provocative language / gestures to a player, opponent or match official. (A coach should only enter the field of play with the referee's permission and should not question their decision or integrity)
- Ensure that all equipment, dressing rooms and areas occupied by the Team, are kept clean and are not damaged in any way. (Any damage should be reported to a member of the Executive Committee of the club)
- Ensure that players are safely attired and that proper insurance arrangements are in place. (Names, addresses and DOB's for all players under your control should be forwarded in writing to the Club Secretary)
- Ensure the unrestricted access to the Internet is not provided on the club premises.
- Ensure fair play Dromara GAC has long been associated with fair play. Winning or striving to win is essential for enjoyable competition but should not be seen as an end in itself. (The level of improvement made by young people is the best indicator of effective Coaching)
- Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force.
- Arrange training sessions to start and finish on time, lead by example, properly attired, avoid smoking in the presence of young people.



ROLE OF PARENTS / GUARDIANS

All parents / guardians have an influential role to play in assisting their children adopt positive attitudes and encouraging them to maintain an involvement in sport. Parents should not attempt to meet their own needs for success and achievement through their children's participation in Gaelic games.

The following guidelines will be of assistance:

- Show approval for effort, not just for results.
- Try to make words and actions match.
- Attend games on a regular basis, become a member of Dromara GAC and assist in the organisation of the club's activities.
- Give your child advice on the important of a balanced lifestyle.
- Listen to what young people have to say.
- Try to appreciate the strength of a young person's emotions.
- Realise the power of example
- Don't exert undue pressure on young people.
- Don't do one thing and say another.
- Don't make promises you can't keep.
- Don't ask 'How much did you win or lose by.
- Don't just show approval when the Team wins.
- Don't criticise playing performance – seek areas where improvements can be made.
- Don't criticise Team / Match Officials.
- Arrange to take and lift your children from training and matches when required.



THE ROLE OF THE YOUNG PERSON

Young people must be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat others with fairness and respect.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO:

- Play fairly, do your best at all times even in training and enjoy yourselves.
- Represent their family and Club with pride and dignity.
- Always shake hands with your opponents before and after a game regardless of the result.
- Respect officials from within and from outside the Club and respect their decisions gracefully.
- Respect your opponents.
- Respect fellow team members giving them support when they do well and even when they do not so well.
- Accept apologies from opponents when offered.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Let your team mentors know when you are not available for training or a match (give as much notice as possible).
- Approach your team mentor or any Committee member with any questions or concerns you may have.
- Do not tell lies about adults or other children.



THE ROLE OF THE CLUB'S YOUTH OFFICER

- To develop and maintain a youth centred ethos within the Club.
- To encourage the involvement of parents / guardians in organising activities and to co-operate with parents in ensuring that every young person enjoys his / her involvement in the Club.
- To establish and maintain a link between the Underage and Adult sections of the Club.
- To establish links with the local schools in the promotion of Gaelic games.
- To liaise with the Club Secretary to ensure the rules regarding eligibility for competitions are adhered to.
- To promote awareness of the Club's Child Protection Policy and Procedures and the ***Code of Ethics*** and ***Good Practice for Children's Sport*** and the GAA '***Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport***'.
- To influence policy and practice within the Club in order to prioritise children's needs.



THE ROLE OF THE CLUB

- To ensure the designated officer (Club Chairperson) monitors and updates the Club's Child Protection / Equity Policy where appropriate.
- Ensure that appropriate insurance cover is in place to cover the activities of the club.
- Will deal with any allegation of abuse in a sensitive and competent way through listening to and facilitating the child to tell about the problem.
- Will investigate and record where necessary any allegation.
- Keep records of action taken and inform the relevant authority.
- Keep records of attendees at relevant courses.
- Organise Child Protection Awareness training courses for its mentors / coaches.
- Full documentation will be kept and it will be treated as confidential and held securely.