



# RESPECT! Kilkenny GAA



## GAA – CODE OF CONDUCT



### GAA Code of Behaviour (Underage)


**GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT  
WE ARE ALL ON THE ONE TEAM!**

Caroline Clifford, Children's Officer, Kilkenny GAA 2023.



## What is the message from Kilkenny GAA and from the Clubs in Kilkenny?

- Kilkenny GAA subscribes to the GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT Initiative. Over the next four weeks we will be promoting this across our County and we are insisting all Clubs, our members, supporters, players, parents/guardians, referees and anyone who attends our games subscribe to it too.
- Our County and Club teams are training hard to deliver their best performances, the rest of us need to do likewise. We need to embrace the GAA Code of Conduct, understand the Code of Behaviour (Juvenile) and support the GAA GIVE RESPECT - GET RESPECT Initiative. We need everyone on board, we must all play our part, we are all on the one team on this one!

## GAA – CODE OF CONDUCT

### POLICY STATEMENT

- The aim of the Code is to promote and encourage good behaviour and practice by all GAA Participants. It aims to promote and encourage a culture of respect and integrity within the GAA.
- GAA Participants are required to abide by and implement the Code.
- GAA Participants are required to report any suspected breaches of the Code to the relevant Executive or Management Committee for consideration.

### SCOPE AND INTERPRETATION

The Code sets out the conduct required of each GAA Participant:

- In the exercise of his or her GAA duties or activities or
- In his or her participation or attendance at GAA events.

### In respect of any GAA Activity, each GAA Participant shall show...

- Integrity** Maintain, demonstrate and promote the highest standards of integrity;
- Respect** Maintain, demonstrate and promote the highest standards of respect;  
Respect the decisions of all referees, match officials, Committees and Councils;  
Respect all GAA Participants and Committees and Councils;  
Respect all property and equipment of the GAA.
- Loyalty** Demonstrate loyalty to his or her unit(s) and team(s);
- Values of GAA** Behave in a manner that upholds the values of the GAA.
- Law and Rules** Comply with the law;  
Comply with the Rules in the Official Guide;  
Implement, support and promote the Code;  
Cooperate with any investigation in respect of an alleged breach of the Code;
- Conduct** Promote the highest standards of personal conduct;  
Promote and support fair play;  
Demonstrate a positive attitude to the games and activities of the GAA

### Not do any of the following

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- use foul or abusive language;
- use any other forms of abuse;
- provide any form of character reference for an individual as part of legal or Court Proceedings, in his or her capacity as an Officer of the GAA (if applicable).
- Furthermore, any character reference, whether provided by an Officer or a Member should specify that it is being provided in a personal capacity and not in anyway on behalf of or as an Officer or a Member of the GAA;
- participate in any match-fixing activity.



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## GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT

- **Give Respect – Get Respect** is an awareness initiative that promotes the playing of our games in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner and where Parents, Players, Coaches, Spectators and Referees Give Respect – Get Respect from each other.
- The **RESPECT campaign** applies at all levels and amongst all players regardless of age, competition or ability. The key participants in the Give Respect – Get Respect campaign are not just the Players themselves but Coaches, Clubs, Parents, Referees and Supporters.
- Delivering the principles of the Give Respect – Get Respect initiative at ‘underage’ level is a key factor in ensuring that Young Players and Children are made aware of the need to be respectful of others, not merely while playing our games, but as part of society in general.
- The Give Respect – Get Respect initiative is supported by the GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, the Camogie Association, GAA Handball Ireland and the Rounders Council of Ireland.

### THE GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS THE FOLLOWING GOOD PRACTICES:

- All players and coaches shake hands with their opponents and the referee before and after each game.
- Host Clubs or home teams should mark out a designated spectators’ area around the playing area
- Teams should strive to achieve the maximum participation of all players in accordance with agreed playing models at underage level.
- Host Clubs should formally welcome referees and opposing team to all games.
- A merit award, at County level, based on sporting endeavour and fair play, shall be awarded to players and teams who have upheld the RESPECT principles.
- Adopt and implement the Code of Behaviour when working with underage players as the minimum level of agreement between the Club and players, coaches, parents, guardians and supporters at underage level.
- Organise half time exhibition games during Club, Inter-County League and Championship
- Games that promote the principles of the RESPECT campaign in association with schools, other Clubs and Cumann na mBunscol.
- Clubs should ensure that the coaches of underage teams are aware of and also implement the Give Respect – Get Respect initiative.
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### RESPECT

- Responsible
- Encouraging
- Supportive
- Positive
- Enabling
- Considerate
- Tolerant





## Message to Coaches & Referees

### COACHES, MENTORS AND TRAINERS

All Coaches, Mentors and Trainers of young players (referred to hereafter as coaches) should ensure that these players benefit significantly from our games by promoting a positive, healthy and participatory approach with underage players. In developing the skills levels of every player, coaches should always encourage enjoyment and fun while ensuring meaningful participation in our games and activities. Coaches should always remember that they are **role models** for the players in their care.

COACHES SHOULD MAINTAIN A CHILD CENTRED APPROACH

COACHES SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE

### REFEREES

Throughout this Code of Behaviour emphasis has been placed on the need to co-operate with and facilitate those who organise and deliver our games and activities. Referees, and other officials who officiate at our games, are key people in the delivery of our games and should be respected and assisted in their roles at all times.

Referees are conscious of the fact that they are instrumental in ensuring our games are played in a sporting manner and in accordance with the rules of the game.

Players, coaches, mentors, parents/guardians and other Club personnel have a key role to play in the delivery of this aspect of our Gaelic Games particularly when working with underage players. The manner in which we accept the role, authority and decisions of a referee will naturally be scrutinised very closely by our underage players and adults need to show good example to players and to their children in how they show their respect for referees and other match officials.

Parents and Clubs should encourage underage players, at an appropriate age level, to attend referee training courses and to subsequently officiate age appropriate games which could result in refereeing being their preferred pathway or role in our Gaelic Games Associations.

**Any referee, under 16 years of age, must be accompanied by a suitable adult who shall act as a supervisor to the referee. This supervisor must fulfil the requirements of a supervisor, as outlined elsewhere in the Code of Behaviour (Underage).**

### IN THEIR CAPACITY AS REFEREES OF UNDERAGE GAMES WE EXPECT OUR REFEREES TO:

- Apply the playing rules on an impartial and consistent basis.
- Act with integrity and objectivity in all games.
- Communicate decisions to players and team officials in an effective and constructive manner in consideration of the age groups playing our games.
- Deal with dissent firmly and fairly.
- Work as a team with other match officials.
- Maintain composure regardless of the circumstances.

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- Avail of assessments and supports to improve performance.
- Uphold and implement the Give Respect – Get Respect initiative at all levels.
- Report any misconduct of players, team officials or supporters conscious of the fact that such matters may be followed up by Club or County Children’s Officers.
- Undertake agreed vetting and background Police checks within the jurisdictions in which they officiate and attend relevant child safeguarding training.

**Players, Coaches, Supporters, Parents/Guardians and other Club personnel should recognise the pivotal role that referees play in our underage games and should support them at all times when fulfilling their roles.**



## Message to Parents/ Guardians & Supporters

### PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Our Associations constantly seek the active participation of all parents and guardians, particularly at Club level, where the ethos of volunteerism forms the basis of our community led Clubs and also enables us to promote and participate in many other community based endeavours. In common with coaches and club personnel the parents/guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children and are welcome to attend their child's training activities and games.

- PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILD
- PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE
- PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ASSIST THEIR CLUB
- PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE THE RIGHTS

### SUPPORTERS

Young Players are eager to enjoy and benefit from the support they receive from parents, guardians, friends and other members of the Club who attend our games as supporters of the team and Club. Active, loyal and well behaved supporters add to the enjoyment of our games and are always welcome to attend our games but should be aware that their conduct will always reflect upon the team, players and Clubs that they support and represent.

Fellow supporters have a responsibility to ensure that all spectators conduct themselves in an acceptable and well behaved manner at all times, when attending our games and competitions or indeed before or after our games. Unacceptable conduct by supporters should be reported to stewards or officials in charge (if appropriate) or at Club level to the Children's Officer.

Supporters should realise and consider that young players are encouraged to participate in Gaelic Games so that they may enjoy themselves while also improving their skills levels.

### WE EXPECT OUR SUPPORTERS TO:

- Encourage and applaud good performance and effort from players and opponents alike, regardless of the result.
- Never engage in the use of violence, on their own or with others.
- Demonstrate appropriate good behaviour by not using foul language, and by not engaging in racially abusive language or deeds or by harassing players, supporters, coaches or officials.
- Never enter the field of play, before, during or after a game.
- Respect the decisions of all officials.
- Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during games or competitions.



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- Show respect to your Club's opponents. Without them there would be no games or competitions.
- Uphold the principles of FAIR PLAY and RESPECT for all.

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## Message to Players

### YOUNG PLAYERS

Young Players can benefit greatly from sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment. Our players are encouraged to realise that as a result of their participation in our Gaelic Games that they also have a responsibility to treat all other players and officials with fairness.

The term young players, i.e. any person who is under 18 years of age, also refers to children regardless of what team, grade or age group they play with. 'Underage' is a general term given to the players and competitions up to Minor grade level and to whom the Code of Behaviour (Underage) applies.

Young Players, and those who work with them in our Associations are required to 'sign up' and abide by this Code of Behaviour and to any other policies or codes in our Clubs or Associations.

### 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.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Participate in games and competitions at age appropriate levels.
- 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 and have their suggestions heard in a constructive manner.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ALWAYS...

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ENGAGE IN GOOD PRACTICE

### YOUNG PLAYERS ON ADULT TEAMS

The progression of a player from underage grades to adult teams is always welcomed and may come sooner for some rather than others. While it is not unusual for players under 18 yrs. of age to be part of adult club teams their participation requires additional attention as they still legally hold recognition as a child which their parents, fellow players, their Club and mentors and their Association must recognise and uphold.

This may require their fellow team members being spoken to by the team mentors so as to address the legal status of the under 18 yr. olds and to emphasise that adults must always conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and an assurance that the adults will not



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encourage or facilitate the under 18 yr. olds to participate in adult related socialising or activity.

**Mentors of adult teams that include underage players must be vetted, must have attended child safeguarding training and must have a minimum coaching qualification.**



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- Code of Conduct – GAA
  - [gxthnk5f0jvqehfhch4x.pdf \(gaa.ie\)](#)
- Code of Behaviour
  - [Code of Behaviour \(Underage\) \(gaa.ie\)](#)
- GIVE RESPECT GET RESPECT
  - [Give Respect - Get Respect \(gaa.ie\)](#)
- Tackling Bullying
  - [Tackling Bullying \(gaa.ie\)](#)
- Mental Health Charter
  - [GAA Mental Health Charter](#)

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