



ROSCOMMON GAELS

CODE OF CONDUCT UNDERAGE PLAYERS

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MAINTAINING GOOD PRACTICE AND BEHAVIOUR

Young Players can benefit greatly from sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment. Roscommon Gaels 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 the four codes in Roscommon Gels 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:

- Respect fellow team members and opponents regardless of ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religion.
- Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves.
- Support fellow team members regardless of whether they do well or not.
- Represent their team, their Club and their family with pride and dignity.
- Respect all coaches and decisions of officials.
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- Shake hands before and after a game as part of the Give Respect - Get Respect initiative.

- Inform their coach/mentor/manager in advance if they are unavailable for training and games.
- Take due care of Club equipment.
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions they may have.
- Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed in any way.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ENGAGE IN GOOD PRACTICE:

- Never cheat – always play by the rules.
- Never shout at or argue with a game's official, with their coach, their team mates or opponents.
- Never use violence towards team mates, coaches, officials, opponents or supporters.
- Accept the decisions of referees and other officials.
- Never use unfair or Bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players.
- Never spread rumours.
- Never tell lies about adults or other young people.
- Never play or train if they feel unwell or are injured.
- Never use unacceptable language or racial or homophobic references towards a team mate, an opponent, a fellow player, coach, official or supporter by words, deeds or gestures.
- Never consume non-prescribed drugs or performance enhancing supplements.
- Never use social media to discuss team mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or other individuals.
- Never use social media or social media apps to distribute or redistribute offensive content or to taunt, bully or racially abuse others.

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 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.