



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR JUVENILE COACHES

This Code of Behaviour for Juvenile Coaches within Ballyboden St. Enda's is derived from the Official Code of Behaviour (Underage), which is the mandatory Code of Behaviour for all Gaelic Games Associations in relation to underage players: <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/code-of-behaviour>

All Coaches, mentors and trainers of children and young people (any player under 18 years of age) in Ballyboden St. Enda's should ensure that these players benefit significantly from our Club by promoting a positive, healthy and participatory approach with juvenile 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.

OUR VALUES

Community Identity
Amateur Status

Inclusiveness
Respect

Player Welfare
Teamwork

REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHES

Coaches working with children and young players are required to:

- participate in the annual ratification process.
- undertake agreed garda vetting checks.
- attend and complete relevant Gaelic Games child safeguarding training/updates as required.
- develop an understanding of relevant coaching methods, ensure they possess an appropriate level of coaching qualification relevant to their role as recognised by their Association.

A PLAYER-CENTRED APPROACH

Coaches should maintain a player-centred approach at all times, which means you are required to:

- recognise the development needs and capacity of all juvenile players, regardless of their ability, by emphasising participation for all while avoiding excessive training and competition.
- recognise that skills development and personal satisfaction should have priority over competition – do not develop or promote a preoccupation with medals and trophies.
- ensure all those eligible to participate in any team within the Club are provided with an opportunity to do so with preference given to playing in their own age group in accordance with Club policy.
- recognise that the level of improvement made by underage players is the best indicator of effective coaching - do not equate losing with failure.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Coaches are role models within the Club and should behave accordingly, which means you are required to:

- promote fair play, adherence to the rules of the game and the RESPECT campaign among players, coaches, parents and supporters.
- encourage players, parents and other members to become involved in Team/Club activities.
- never use foul, provocative, sectarian, homophobic or racist language/gestures/threats towards any player, coach, match official or supporter.
- never enter the field of play without a match official's permission; never question a match official's decision or integrity; encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials.
- never smoke or consume alcohol or non-prescribed drugs immediately prior to or while juvenile players are in your care.

DO'S



- Set realistic – stretching but achievable – performance goals for your players and teams.
- Afford meaningful playing time to young players so as to assist in the development of their playing skills, within their own age groups.
- Rotate the team captaincy and the method used for selecting teams so that the same children are not always selected to the exclusion of others.
- Be punctual and properly attired.
- Ensure that all of your players are suitably and safely attired to play their chosen sport.
- Keep a record of attendance at training and at games by both players and coaches.
- Keep a record of any injuries and actions subsequently taken.
- Inform parents/guardians if their child has been injured or becomes unwell at games and training as soon as is practical.
- Be aware of any special medical or dietary requirements of players.
- Be accompanied by at least one other adult at coaching sessions, games and in juvenile team dressing rooms.
- Aim to have a ratio of 2 adults to 10 children, (2:10). In the case of an all-female team, at least 1 adult must be female and similarly in the case of an all-male team, at least 1 adult must be male.
- Encourage parents/guardians to play an active role in organising and assisting various activities for your teams and your Club.

DON'TS



- Avoid taking coaching sessions on your own.
- Avoid delivering one-to-one coaching outside of a group setting.
- Avoid incidents of horseplay or telling jokes that could be misinterpreted.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with an underage player and never engage in inappropriate touching of a player. Be aware that any necessary contact should be determined by the age and development of the player and should only take place with the permission and understanding of the player and in an open environment in the context of developing a player's skills and abilities.
- Do not communicate individually by text, email or via social network sites and or apps with underage players.
- Do not accept or condone bullying behaviour from any player, coach, parent, supporter or match official – report your concerns.
- Never encourage players to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.
- Do not make energy enhancing products available to children and young people.
- Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured.
- Do not administer medication or medical aid unless you are willing to do so and have received the necessary training to do so.