

## Section 2: Code of Behaviour

Ballyboden St Enda's Code of Behaviour applies to [Coaches](#) and [Parents](#) at Juvenile<sup>1</sup> level.

The Code of Behaviour is based upon 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>

### SECTION 2.1: CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR JUVENILE COACHES

All Coaches, mentors and trainers of children and young people 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.

#### 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 and updates as required.
- develop an understanding of relevant coaching methods and ensure they possess an appropriate level of coaching qualification relevant to their role as recognised by their Association.

---

<sup>1</sup> Juvenile = players/teams under 18 years of age, including players on adult teams that are under 18 years of age.

## **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 your team and/or 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.

## Best Practice

Do's	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Set realistic – stretching but achievable – performance goals for your players and teams.</li> <li>✓ Afford meaningful playing time to young players so as to assist in the development of their playing skills, within their own age groups.</li> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ Be punctual and properly attired.</li> <li>✓ Ensure that all of your players are suitably and safely attired to play their chosen sport.</li> <li>✓ Keep a record of attendance at training and at games by both players and coaches.</li> <li>✓ Keep a record of any injuries and actions subsequently taken.</li> <li>✓ Inform parents/guardians if their child has been injured or becomes unwell at games and training as soon as is practical.</li> <li>✓ Be aware of any special medical or dietary requirements of players.</li> <li>✓ Be accompanied by at least one other adult at coaching sessions, games and in juvenile team dressing rooms.</li> <li>✓ Abide by a minimum ratio of 2 adults to 10 children, (2:10). In the case of an all-female team, at least one of the two adults must be female and similarly in the case of an all-boys team, at least one of the two adults must be male.</li> <li>✓ Encourage parents/guardians to play an active role in organising and assisting various activities for your teams and your Club.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Avoid taking coaching sessions on your own.</li> <li>✗ Avoid delivering one-to-one coaching outside of a group setting.</li> <li>✗ Avoid incidents of horseplay or telling jokes that could be misinterpreted.</li> <li>✗ 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.</li> <li>✗ Do not communicate individually by text, email or via social network sites and or apps with underage players.</li> <li>✗ Do not accept or condone bullying behaviour from any player, coach, parent, supporter or match official – report your concerns.</li> <li>✗ Never encourage players to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.</li> <li>✗ Do not make energy enhancing products available to children and young people.</li> <li>✗ Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured.</li> <li>✗ Do not administer medication or medical aid unless you are willing to do so and have received the necessary training to do so.</li> </ul>



## SECTION 2.2: CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR PARENTS

Ballyboden St. Enda's GAA club seeks and encourages the active participation of all parents and guardians. In common with coaches and club personnel, the parents and guardians of juvenile players are role models for children and young people within the Club and are expected to behave accordingly.

### **Promoting the Club's Values**

Parents/guardians should recognise and promote the Club's values by encouraging their child/young person to:

- develop their skill levels by attending training and games on a regular basis.
- always play by the rules and respect match officials.
- respect everybody on their team and their opponents, regardless of ability.
- appreciate the contribution made by their coaches towards developing players and teams.
- get involved in the club community through various projects and initiatives both on and off the pitch.

### **Being Aware**

As a parent/guardian there are a number of basic responsibilities you should be aware of, including to:

- complete through Foireann or on the Child/Youth Membership Form the annual registration/permission and medical consent information for your child's participation in the Club.
- inform the coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel, of any changes in your child's medical or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games or other activities.
- ensure that your child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities.
- provide your child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of our games including for example helmets, shin guards, gum shields etc.

- ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of your child are met.
- never encourage your child to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.
- raise any issues or concerns you may have regarding your child's participation or performance with the team coach(es) in a constructive, non-confrontational fashion and at the appropriate time i.e. when not in the company or vicinity of other players or parents. In the event that the matter is not resolved, contact the Club Secretary and request a copy of the Club's Dispute Resolution Policy.

### Leading by Example

Parents/guardians are role models within the Club and should behave accordingly. Parents/guardians are asked to follow some simple do's and don'ts:

Do's	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Attend and support your child at their training and games.</li> <li>✓ Adopt a positive attitude to children's participation in our games.</li> <li>✓ Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.</li> <li>✓ Be realistic in your expectations of your child, their teammates and our volunteer coaches.</li> <li>✓ Practice the skills of the game at home with your child – it can make a huge difference.</li> <li>✓ Appreciate the contributions of your volunteer coaches and encourage your child to thank their coaches after each session.</li> <li>✓ Show approval for effort, not just results.</li> <li>✓ Applaud good play from all teams.</li> <li>✓ Support the Club by becoming an active member and participating in Club activities.</li> <li>✓ Bring complaints about the conduct or practice of a coach to the attention of the relevant Club Official(s).</li> <li>✓ Parents, and their children should wherever possible walk or cycle to the Club. When travelling to the Club by car, parents are required to park legally and with respect and consideration to our neighbours, who are part of our community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Be preoccupied with winning or trophies to the detriment of enjoyment and fun.</li> <li>× Embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player.</li> <li>× Criticise playing performances but instead support skill development.</li> <li>× Seek to unfairly affect a game or player.</li> <li>× Enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge.</li> <li>× Enter team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by team coach(es) so as to protect the privacy of all players.</li> </ul>



