

BUTLERSBRIDGE GFC



Code of Behaviour for Juvenile Players

Butlersbridge Juvenile GAA club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well being of its players, mentors and members. Every individual in the club should at all times show respect and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in this short document. These guidelines are derived from the official *GAA code of Best Practice in Youth Sport*.

Everyone involved in our sports and activities should accept the roles and responsibilities that they undertake as we commit ourselves to maintaining an enjoyable and safe environment for all. The safeguarding of our members will always be a key priority as we recognise that the welfare of the child is of paramount importance in our work.

Play and Stay with the GAA



Young players can benefit greatly from sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment. As part of their participation our players must be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat others with fairness and respect. With rights there will always be responsibilities.

This document outlines the roles and responsibilities for the three main stakeholders in our underage club – the players, the coaches/mentors and the parents/guardians. In keeping with best practice, the document also outlines the role of the Children's Officer within the club, as well as the policy on discipline, complaints and appeals.

We encourage you to review this information and familiarise yourself with the standards expected by and in the Club. There will be a 'sign-up' procedure, whereby young people agree to abide by the rules contained herein and return the signed form at the end to their relevant team manager.

Let us ensure that everyone working on our behalf emphasises FAIR PLAY, RESPECT, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SAFETY in all aspects of our work with children and young people.

THE CLUB

We recognise that we have a responsibility to:

- ✓ Safeguard and promote the interests and well being of those juvenile players age who are involved in our games and activities.
- ✓ Take all reasonable steps to protect young people from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment.
- ✓ Respect the rights that young people have including their wishes and feelings.
- ✓ Maintain the professionalism, standards and reputation of Butlersbridge GAA club
- ✓ Strive to create an environment to help our members reach their potential

Appropriate training and supports will be provided so as to ensure that Coaches are suitable, comfortable and qualified to fulfil their roles. It is recommended that all persons working or volunteering for such roles should be Garda Vetted and seek to complete a course in Child Protection through GAA coaching courses appropriate to the age level that they are training.

THE COACHES/MENTORS

All Coaches, Mentors and Trainers should ensure that young people and children benefit significantly from our games by providing a positive, healthy and encouraging ethos for all. In developing the skills levels of every player you should always encourage enjoyment, fun and participation in our games and activities. Coaches should always remember that they are role models for the players in their care.



Best Practice for underage coaches

- ✓ Lead by example
- ✓ Arrive properly attired, in plenty of time and well prepared for each training session and game
- ✓ Promote fair play by encouraging players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials.
- ✓ Challenge bullying in any form whether physical or emotional. Bullying is not acceptable behaviour be it from a young person, mentor, parent or guardian.
- ✓ Only enter the field of play with the referee's permission and do not question a referee's decisions or integrity.
- ✓ Avoid smoking/alcohol/non-prescribed drugs while working with young players.
- ✓ Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- ✓ Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force.
- ✓ Develop an appropriate working relationship with children based on mutual respect.
- ✓ Endeavour to ensure there is an adequate gender balance of adults present at games and training
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Set realistic - stretching but achievable - performance goals.
- ✓ Use mobile phones, if deemed appropriate, only via a group texts system for communicating with the parents/guardians of players. Do not communicate individually by text with under age players.
- ✓ Avoid compromising situations such as being alone in a dressing room with a player or taking a training session without another adult being present.
- ✓ Make adequate provision for First Aid services.
- ✓ Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured.
- ✓ Encourage all players to do their best and always place an emphasis on performance before winning

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THE PLAYERS

Young players can benefit greatly from sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment. As part of their participation our players must be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat others with fairness and respect. With rights there will always be responsibilities.

BUTLERBSRIDGE UNDERAGE 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.
- ✓ Participate in games and competitions at a level at which they feel comfortable.
- ✓ Be listened to and if necessary be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- ✓ Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- ✓ Be protected from abuse.

BUTLERBSRIDGE UNDERAGE PLAYERS should undertake to:

- ✓ Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves.
- ✓ Respect fellow team members, coaches/mentors, officials and opponents.
- ✓ Carry out the instruction of the coaches/mentors both during training and games.
- ✓ Support fellow team members whether they do well or not so well.
- ✓ Represent their team, their club and their family with pride and dignity.
- ✓ Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- ✓ Shake hands before and after games irrespective of the result.
- ✓ Talk to the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions they may have.
- ✓ Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour and their Club's Code of Discipline.
- ✓ Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed in any way.
- ✓ Take due care of club equipment
- ✓ Come to training with an open and positive attitude
- ✓ Practice as often as possible

BUTLERBSRIDGE UNDERAGE PLAYERS should NOT:

- ✓ Cheat – always play by the rules.
- ✓ Shout at or argue with an official, coaches/mentors, team mates or opponents or use violence
- ✓ Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players
- ✓ Use text messages, mobile technology or social media to bully other players or mentors
- ✓ Spread rumours
- ✓ Tell lies about adults or other young people
- ✓ Play or train if they feel unwell or are injured
- ✓ Use unacceptable language or racial and/or sectarian references

RESPECT

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

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THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/Guardians have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to adopt a positive attitude and in encouraging them to maintain an involvement in sport. They should always be a good role model for their children.

Parents/Guardians should encourage their child to:

- ✓ Respect fellow team members, coaches/mentors, officials and opponents.
- ✓ Play by the rules.
- ✓ Improve their skills levels.
- ✓ Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability.
- ✓ Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to exercise, food, rest and play. Seek advice if necessary from club officials on this issue.

Parents/Guardians should lead by example:

- ✓ Respect coaches' and officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- ✓ Do not exert undue pressure on your child.
- ✓ Never admonish your own child or any other child for their standard of play.
- ✓ Inform the mentors of any change in their child's medical or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games or other activities.
- ✓ Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities.
- ✓ Endeavour to ensure there is an adequate gender balance of adults present at games and training
- ✓ Inform their coach/mentor/manager when they are unavailable for training and games.
- ✓ Provide their child with proper clothing and equipment.
- ✓ Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- ✓ Avoid asking a child or young person, 'How much did you score today or what did you win by or what did you lose by.' Ask them 'did they enjoy themselves'.
- ✓ Listen to what young people have to say.
- ✓ Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game.
- ✓ Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in games.

THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN'S OFFICER

The Children's Officer has a key role to play in the creation of a safe and secure environment for children within Butlersbridge GFC. S/he will act as a resource for all our members with regards to children's issues. S/he will ensure that the children have a voice in the running of the club and can talk freely about their experiences and sports activities. The children's officer will have access to the Club Executive Committee.

The key role of the Club Children's Officer is to ensure the implementation and promotion of the relevant Child Welfare Codes and Guidelines for good practice in their Club so as to ensure that young people can participate, enjoy and benefit from our Gaelic Games in safe and enjoyable surroundings.

KEY TASKS

- ✓ Promote awareness of the relevant Codes of Behaviour and Best Practice within the Club
- ✓ Promote the *Code of Behaviour for Juvenile Players* - at Club level
- ✓ Ensure in so far as possible, that all Players, Coaches, Team Mentors, Parents, Guardians, Officials and Spectators adhere to the *Code of Behaviour for Juvenile Players*
- ✓ Support the implementation of the RESPECT initiative at Club level in cooperation with team personnel, underage members, referees, spectators, parents and guardians

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- ✓ Influence policy and practice in the Club in order to prioritise young people's needs
- ✓ Promote greater consultation with underage players and participation by them in Club activities and planning
- ✓ Ensure that there are steps young people may take to express concerns about their sports activities / experiences within the Club
- ✓ Encourage the involvement of parents/guardians in organising Club activities
- ✓ Develop good practice procedures in the recruitment and selection of persons working with young people in the Club
- ✓ Oversee the implementation of Garda Vetting/Access NI/CRB checks, as appropriate, within the Club
- ✓ Maintain on-going contact with the County Board Children's Officer and with other Club Children's Officers
- ✓ Report regularly to the Club Executive as required
- ✓ Deal with breaches of the code as per relevant guidelines
- ✓ Make referrals of alleged allegations of abuse to the Club Designated Person
- ✓ Conduct an annual audit of best practice in child protection and welfare within the Club and report accordingly

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Good discipline is critical to team success. The use of sanctions is an important element in the maintenance of discipline. The club, through its coaches/mentors, have the authority to apply sanctions where deemed necessary. It is important however that all parties should have a clear understanding of where and when particular sanctions are appropriate. The age and developmental stage of the child should be taken into consideration when using sanctions.

A player who breaches discipline will be asked to explain himself and, if deemed serious enough, will;

- ✓ Be asked to tog in before or during a training session/match if the incident happens before or during the training session/match
- ✓ Be taken off during a match if the incident happens during the match
- ✓ Be told not to take part in/attend the next training session/match if the incident happens after the training session/match
- ✓ All such incidents and action taken will be reported to the player's parents/guardians

If a player repeatedly breaches discipline, an intervention will take place to deal with the problem, involving;

The player

The player's parent(s)/guardian(s)

The relevant management team

The Juvenile Chairperson/Members of the Juvenile Committee

Members of the Executive Committee (as necessary)

Players have a right to appeal any sanction through the club's children's officer.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Children's Officer: Gerry McPhillips (086) 0432973

County Children's Officer: Mark O' Rourke (087) 2194717

Juvenile Chairperson: Claire O'Reilly (086) 3794358

Juvenile Secretary: Colm Murphy (086)8145264

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DECLARATION

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS PANEL AND RETURN IT TO ONE OF YOUR TEAM COACHES OR CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER

This code of behaviour addresses the minimum levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our juvenile players, coaches/mentors, supporters, parents/guardians and club.

DECLARATION

I confirm that I have read and understand and agree to abide by this code of behaviour.

Signed (Player 1): _____ **Date:** _____

Signed (Player 2): _____ **Date:** _____

Signed (Player 3): _____ **Date:** _____

Signed (Player 4): _____ **Date:** _____

Signed (Player 5): _____ **Date:** _____

Signed: (Parent/Guardian): _____ **Date:** _____