Naomh FinnÉin C.L.G.

Established 1943

**Code of Conduct**

**COACHES, MENTORS AND TRAINERS**

All Coaches, Mentors and Trainers (referred to hereafter as Coaches) should ensure that young people and children benefit significantly from our games by promoting a positive, healthy and participatory approach in our work 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.

All persons working or volunteering for such roles are required to undertake agreed Garda vetting.

**COACHES SHOULD MAINTAIN A CHILD CENTRED APPROACH**

* Be positive during coaching sessions, games and other activities so that underage players always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
* Recognise the development needs and capacity of all underage players, regardless of their ability, by emphasising participation for all while avoiding excessive training and competition. Skills development and personal satisfaction should have priority over competition when working with underage players.

**COACHES SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE**

* Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
* Only enter the field of play with the Referee’s permission.
* Do not question a Referee’s decisions or integrity.
* Encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials.
* Promote Fair Play and encourage all players and fellow officials to always play by the rules of the game.
* Do not encourage or threaten a player by deed or gesture to act in any unacceptable manner towards an opponent, fellow player or official.
* Promote the RESPECT campaign amongst your players, fellow coaches, parents and supporters.
* Encourage parents to become involved in your team and Club activities wherever possible.

**CONDUCT OF COACHES WHEN WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

* Develop an appropriate working relationship with children based on mutual trust and respect
* Challenge Bullying in any form whether physical or emotional. Bullying is not acceptable behaviour be it from a young person, coach, parent/guardian, spectator or match official
* Don’t shout at or lecture players or reprimand/ridicule them when they make a mistake. Children learn best through trial and error. Children and young people should not be afraid to risk error so as to learn.
* The use of any form of physical punishment is prohibited. Do not use any form of physical response to misbehaviour, unless it is by way of restraint so as to minimise or prevent injury.
* Avoid taking coaching sessions on your own.
* Only deliver one to one coaching, if deemed necessary, within a group setting.
* Avoid unnecessary physical contact with an underage player and never engage in inappropriate touching of a player
* Be aware that any necessary contact undertaken as part of a coaching instruction 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.

**BEST PRACTICE**

* Ensure that all of your players are suitably and safely attired to play their chosen sport. e.g. helmets (Hurling and Camogie), goggles (Handball), shin guards, gum shields (Football).
* As a coach always be punctual and properly attired.
* Be accompanied by at least one other adult at coaching sessions, games and in underage team dressing rooms.
* 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.
* Keep a record of any injuries and actions subsequently taken. Ensure that another official/referee/team mentor is present when a player is being attended to and can corroborate the relevant details.
* Make adequate provision for First Aid services.
* Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured
* Be aware of any special medical or dietary requirements of players as indicated on the medical consent/ registration forms or as informed by parents/guardians.
* Be willing to keep the necessary and emergency medication of players in a safe and accessible place in accordance with the wishes and permission of the parents/guardians
* Use mobile phones, if deemed appropriate, only via a group text or email system for communicating with the parents/guardians of players. Any exception to this form of group texting can only be proceeded with following permission from parents/guardians.
* Do not communicate individually by text/email with underage players.
* Do not engage in communications with underage players via social network sites.
* Encourage parents/guardians to play an active role in organising and assisting various activities for your teams and your Club.
* If it is necessary to transport a child/young person in your car, ensure that they are seated in a rear seat with seat belts securely fastened and that all drivers are adequately insured.
* With the exception of their own child a coach should not transport a child alone, except in emergency or exceptional circumstances.