



# GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

## CODE OF ETHICS

Fair play involves honesty, respect for teammates respect for opponents - whether winning or losing and respect for referees, umpires and officials.

### **Athletes' Code of Behaviour**

Compete for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.

Work equally hard for yourself and your club. Your club's performance will benefit, so will you!

Play by the rules.

Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your Team Manager or coach approach the official during a break or after the event.

Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other athletes, deliberately provoking an opponent and throwing equipment is not acceptable or permitted in this or any other sport.

Be a good sport. Cheer all good performances, whether they are by your club member or another club's athlete.

Treat all athletes as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another athlete.

Co-operate with your coach, club members and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.

### **Coach's Code of Ethics**

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals. Within the context of an activity treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin or religion.

Ensure an athlete's time spent with you is a positive experience. All athletes are deserving of equal attention and opportunities. The scheduling and length of training times and competition should take into consideration the maturity level of the athletes.

Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions. Display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation. Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved with Gaelic football including opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage your athletes to demonstrate the same qualities. Develop respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.

## 2.

Treat each athlete as an individual. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete. Help each athlete to reach his or her full potential. Avoid over-working the talented athletes. The “just-average” athletes need, and deserve, equal opportunities.

Be fair, considerate and honest with athletes.

Make a commitment to provide a quality service to your athletes by:

- maintaining or improving your NCAS status
- seeking continual improvement through performance appraisal and ongoing coach education
- providing a training program which is planned and sequential
- maintaining appropriate records

Any physical contact with athletes should be appropriate to the situation/necessary for the athlete’s skill development.

Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards your athletes. This includes verbal, physical, and emotional abuse. Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards your athletes from other sources while they are in your care. Never ridicule or yell at athletes for making mistakes or losing an event.

Refrain from any form of harassment towards your athletes. This includes sexual and racial harassment racial vilification and harassment on the grounds of disability.

You should not only refrain from initiating a relationship with an athlete, but should also discourage any attempt by an athlete to initiate a sexual relationship with you, explaining the ethical basis of your refusal.

Provide a safe environment for training and competition. Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards. Ensure equipment, rules, training and environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes.

Show concern and caution toward sick and injured athletes. Provide a modified training program where appropriate. Allow further participation in training only when appropriate. Encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured athlete is ready to recommence training /competition. Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes.

Be reasonable in your demands on young athletes' time, energy and enthusiasm. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children. Remember that juniors play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation.

Teach your athletes that rules of the competition are mutual agreements that no one should evade or break.

Whenever possible, group athletes according to age, height, skills and physical maturity.

Be a positive role model for Gaelic football and your athletes.

### 3.

#### **Administrators' Code of Behaviour**

Involve athletes in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activity.

Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all individuals, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, and disability or ethnic origin.

Equipment and facilities must be safe and appropriate to the ability level of participating athletes.

Rules, equipment, lengths of events and training schedules should take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating athletes.

Ensure that qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique provide adequate supervision.

Remember that as juniors participate for enjoyment, downplay the importance of rewards.

Avoid allowing sports programs to become primarily spectator entertainment. Focus on the needs of the participants rather than the enjoyment of the spectators.

Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.

Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sports.

Distribute a code of behaviour sheet to officials, parents, coaches, athletes and the media.

#### **Officials' Code of Behaviour**

Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.

Compliment all athletes on their efforts.

Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all rule infringements.

Condemn deliberate misconduct as being unsportsmanlike, and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.

Use common sense to ensure that overcalling violations does not lose the “spirit of the competition” for juniors.

Publicly encourage rule changes, which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.

Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the track your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

### **Parents' Code of Behaviour**

If children are interested, encourage them to play sport. However, if a child is not willing to play, do not force him or her.

Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to his / her ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.

Teach children that an honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each event is accepted without undue disappointment.

Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.

Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing an event.

Remember that children learn best from example. Applaud good performances by all competitors, even if from other clubs.

If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than question the official's judgement and honesty in public. Remember that most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the athletes and deserve your support.

### **Spectators' Code of Behaviour**

Young athletes participate in organised sports for fun. They are not competing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.

Applaud good performance and efforts by your club and the opponents. Congratulate all athletes and clubs upon their performance regardless of the competition's outcome.

Respect the official's decision. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach children to do likewise.

Never ridicule or scold an athlete for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.

Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or athletes.

Show respect for your club's opponents. Without them there would be no competition.

Encourage athletes to participate according to the rules and the officials' decisions.

Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing participants, coaches or officials.

## 5.

### **Media Code of Behaviour**

Provide coverage of local competitive and non-competitive sport as well as reporting elite sport.

Be aware of the difference between adult sports programs and children's sports programs.

Place in proper perspective the isolated incidents of unsportsmanlike behaviour rather than make such incidents the "highlight" of the event.

Focus upon participant's fair play and their honest effort.

Junior athletes are not miniature professionals and should not have unfair expectations placed upon them.

Identify and report on the problems of children participating in organised sports and report the violations and distortions of their rights as participants.

Be aware of the difference between the goals of amateur sports and those of professional sports.

Make the readers, viewers and listeners aware of these differences. The professional is an entertainer and wage earner and this, on occasions, may be reflected in the professional athlete's behaviour.



# Coach's Code of Ethics



1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Within the context of the activity, treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin or religion</li></ul>
2. Ensure the athlete's time spent with you is a positive experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All athletes are deserving of equal attention and opportunities</li></ul>
3. Treat each athlete as an individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete</li><li>• Help each athlete reach their full potential</li></ul>
4. Be fair considerate and honest with athletes	
5. Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation</li><li>• Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved with the sport - this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators</li><li>• Encourage your athletes to demonstrate the same qualities</li></ul>
6. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain or improve your current NCAS accreditation</li><li>• Seek continual improvement through performance appraisal and ongoing coach education</li><li>• Provide a training program which is planned and sequential</li><li>• Maintain appropriate records</li></ul>
7. Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The guidelines of national and international bodies governing your sport should be followed. Please contact your sport for a copy of its rule book, constitution, by-laws, relevant policies, e.g. anti-doping policy, selection procedures, etc</li><li>• Coaches should educate their athletes on drugs in sport issues in consultation with the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA)</li></ul>
8. Any physical contact with athletes should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appropriate to the situation</li></ul> necessary for the athlete's skill development*	
9. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards your athletes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse</li><li>• Be alert to any forms of abuse directed toward your athletes from other sources while they are in your care</li></ul>
10. Refrain from any form of harassment towards your athletes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This includes sexual and racial harassment, racial vilification and harassment on the grounds of disability</li><li>• You should not only refrain from initiating a relationship with an athlete, but should also discourage any attempt by an athlete to initiate a sexual relationship with you, explaining the ethical basis of your refusal</li></ul>
11. Provide a safe environment for training and competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards</li><li>• Ensure equipment, rules, training and the environment are appropriate for the age and ability of the athletes</li></ul>
12. Show concern and caution toward sick and injured athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a modified training program where appropriate</li><li>• Allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate</li><li>• Encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required</li><li>• Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes</li></ul>
13. Be a positive role model for your sport and athletes	

\* Please refer to the Harassment-free Sport guidelines available from the Australian Sports Commission for more information on harassment issues

## Coaches should...

- ◆ be treated with respect and openness
- ◆ have access to self-improvement opportunities
- ◆ be matched with a level of coaching appropriate to their level of competence