



GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA INC.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

The Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia and its affiliated Associations and Clubs takes the position that sexual relationships between coaches and the adult athletes that they coach should be avoided **as these relationships can have harmful effects** on the individual athlete involved, on other athletes and coaches, and on the sport's public image. Such relationships may be intentionally or unintentionally exploitative due to a disparity between coaches and athletes in terms of authority, power, maturity, status and dependence.

Should a sexual relationship exist between an athlete and coach, the Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia or affiliated Association will consider whether any action is necessary. Factors that may be relevant to consider are the age and maturity of the athlete relative to the coach, the financial or emotional dependence of the athlete on the coach, and the likelihood of the relationship having any adverse impact on the athlete and/or other athletes. If it is determined that the sexual relationship is inappropriate, action may be taken to stop the coaching relationship with the athlete. Action may include transfer, a request for resignation or dismissal from coaching duties.

In the event that an athlete attempts to initiate an intimate sexual relationship, the coach must take personal responsibility for discouraging such approaches, explaining the ethical basis for such action. The coach may wish to approach the Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia's Secretary/President or an Affiliates MPIO or complaints officer or other designated person if they feel harassed.

Guidelines for handling complaints related to this policy are detailed in the association's Member Protection Policy.

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