



Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha **Code of Behaviour and Best Practice Policy**

Rationale

Ballyea Hurling Club remains committed to safeguarding the well being of its members and players. Every individual in the club should at all times show respect and understanding of the rights and responsibilities regarding safety, welfare, conduct and everyone's well-being. At all times the conduct of players, mentors, parents and officials should reflect the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the GAA's Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport when working with Underage Players titled, Our Games Our Code which also serves as the basis of this document.

Club Child Welfare Statement- Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha

Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount. Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha ensures that those chosen to work on their behalf with underage players have been selected following a thorough recruitment, selection, training and coaching procedure and must also provide these people with the necessary supports so as to enable them fulfil their roles. Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha like all other clubs must ensure that those chosen to work with children and young people are at all times competent and confident in their roles and have received relevant child welfare and sports related training to enable them fulfil such roles.

Young Players Code of Conduct

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 due to their participation in sport they also have a responsibility to treat others with fairness and respect. With rights there will always be responsibilities. By signing as a member of Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha Young Players agree to abide by this Code of Behaviour and to any other policies or codes in Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha.

YOUNG 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.
- Comment and make suggestions in a constructive manner.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Participate in games and competitions at levels with which they feel comfortable.
- Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- Be protected from abuse.
- Be listened to.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ALWAYS

- Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves.
- Respect fellow team members regardless of ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religion beliefs.
- Support fellow team members regardless of whether they do well or not.
- Represent their team, Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha and their family with pride and dignity.
- Respect all coaches, officials and their opponents.
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- Shake hands before and after a game as part of the Give Respect Get Respect initiative, irrespective of the result.
- Inform their Coach/Mentor/Manager in advance if they are unavailable for training and games.
- Take due care of Club equipment.
- Put on their helmet prior to stepping inside the pitch boundary.
- Enter the pitch boundary via the gate closest to the Hurling Wall.
- Know that it is acceptable to 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.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD NEVER:

- Cheat – always play by the rules.
- Shout at or argue with a game's official, with their Coach, their team mates or opponents and should never use violence.
- Use unfair or Bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players. Bullying of any nature is totally unacceptable.
- 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.

Parents/Guardians Code of Conduct

Parents/Guardians have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to fully participate in Gaelic Games, whether by playing our games or attending training or coaching sessions.

In common with coaches and Club personnel the parents/guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children as they participate in Gaelic Games.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILD TO:

- Always 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. Advice may be sought if necessary from Club officials on this issue.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE:

- Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games.
- Respect 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.
- Be realistic in their expectations.
- Show approval for effort, not just results.
- 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 you enjoy yourself?'
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player.
- Applaud good play from all teams.
- Do not criticise playing performances. Identify how improvements may be made.
- Do not seek to unfairly affect a game or player.
- Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD:

- Complete and return the registration/permission and medical consent forms for their child's participation in the Club.
- Enter the pitch boundary via the gate closest to the Hurling Wall.
- Inform the coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel, of any changes 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.
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of our game including for example helmets, etc.
- Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- Listen to what their child may 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.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ASSIST THEIR CLUB BY:

- Showing appreciation to volunteers, coaches and Club officials.
- Attending training and games on a regular basis.
- Assisting in the organising of Club activities and events as requested.
- Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
- Not entering team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach(es) so as to protect the privacy of other underage players.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Know their child is safe and to make a complaint if they believe that their child's safety is in any way compromised through the appropriate channel via Club Child Welfare Officer. The CWO for Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha is David Eyres.
- Be informed of problems/concerns relating to their child.
- Be informed if their child gets injured.
- Complain if they have concerns about the standard of coaching.
- Have a say in relation to decisions being made within the Club.

Supporters Code of Conduct

Young Players are eager to enjoy and benefit from the support they receive from parents, guardians, friends and other members of the Club who attend our games as spectators and supporters. Active, loyal and well behaved supporters are always welcome to attend and support our games but should be aware that their conduct will reflect upon the team, players and Clubs that they support and represent.

Fellow supporters have a responsibility to ensure that all spectators conduct themselves in an acceptable and well behaved manner at all times, when attending our games and competitions.

Supporters should realise and consider that Young Players are encouraged to participate in Gaelic Games so that they may enjoy themselves while also improving their skills levels.

SUPPORTERS ADD TO THE ENJOYMENT OF OUR GAMES BY:

- Applauding good performance and efforts from your Club's players and from your opponents, regardless of the result.
- Condemning the use of violence in any form, be it by fellow spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Encouraging players to participate according to the rules and the referees' decisions.
- Demonstrating appropriate behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Respecting the decisions of all officials.
- Never ridiculing or scolding a player for making a mistake during games or competitions.
- Showing respect to your Club's opponents. Without them there would be no games or competitions.
- Upholding the principles of FAIR PLAY and RESPECT for all.

Club Designated Person

- Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha have appointed David Eyres as our Children's Officer and he can be contacted at 087 7829029.
- The Club designated person will be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children. The designated person is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to Health Services Executive and/or An Garda Síochána.

Discipline

Discipline in sport should always be positive in focus, providing the structure and rules that allow participants to learn to set their own goals and strive for them. It should encourage young people to become more responsible for themselves and therefore more independent. The main

form of discipline should be positive reinforcement for effort. It should encourage the development of emotional and social skills as well as skills in sport. Children should be helped to become responsible about the decisions and choices they make within sport, particularly when they are likely to make a difference between playing fairly and unfairly. There should be no place for fighting, over-aggressive or dangerous behaviour in sport. Participants should treat others in a respectful manner. They should not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of others.

As per the Children's First Guidelines, Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha will have the best interest of the Child first and foremost in all aspects of this policy. The Parents/Guardians/ Advocates (Managers) will be informed and involved where possible and consulted on all aspects within any stages of this policy.

Discipline Levels

The use of sanctions is an important element in the maintenance of discipline. Coaches have the authority to apply sanctions where deemed necessary, however, coaches should have a clear understanding of where and when particular sanctions are appropriate. The age and developmental stage of the child shall be taken into consideration when using sanctions. The following steps are suggested:

Minor Offences:

A verbal warning shall be given if a rule is broken, e.g. poor conduct.

A sanction (for example, use of time out) shall be applied if a rule is broken for a second time.

If a rule is broken three or more times, the child shall be spoken to, and if necessary, the parents/guardians shall be informed.

Serious Offences:

Serious offences can be defined as:

- Continuous breaches of discipline as per the Club Code of Conduct.
- Any form of bullying.
- Refusal to carry out the instructions of the coach.
- Wilful damage to club property or that of visiting teams.
- Bringing the club into disrepute through the player's actions during a training session, match or any event organised by the club.

In the event of such incidents occurring, the coach shall ask the parent/guardian to collect their child from the training/match. The coach shall also report the incident to the Disciplinary Committee. On receipt of any such complaint the Disciplinary Committee will investigate the incident as outlined.

Appointment of Disciplinary Committee: The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a representative from the Senior Committee, the Underage Committee and the Children's Officer and an ordinary registered member of the club. Regular turnover of this committee is recommended.

The issue of confidentiality is important. Information is on a need to know basis.

Dealing with Breaches of this Code

If there is an alleged serious breach of this code, the matter should be referred to the Child Welfare Officer within Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha who will deal with the allegation adhering to the steps outlined in the Our Games Our Code, GAA's Code of Best Practice.

Pitch Rules

- All pitch users must abide by the Pitch Timetable and rules.
- Nobody other than players, mentors and officials are permitted onto the pitch during matches or training sessions.
- No hurling player is allowed onto the pitch without wearing a helmet. Helmets must be worn for all drills and games. No helmet, no game.
- All entry to and exit from the pitch is by the top gate (closest to the hurling wall).

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PLEASE CUT OUT THIS PANEL AND RETURN IT TO YOUR CHILD'S COACH WHO WILL THEN PASS TO THE SECRETARY

This Code of Behaviour addresses the minimum levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our Young Players, Supporters, Parents/Guardians and Clubs.

DECLARATION

I _____ (player name) acknowledge that I have received a copy of the **Cumann Iomána Baile Aodha Code of Behaviour and Best Practice**, which I have read and understood in full. I agree to be bound by the principles set out in the Code when participating, playing or attending our Gaelic Games.

Signed: _____ **(Player)**

Date: _____

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

Date: _____