

# CLAREGALWAY JUVENILE GAA CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Claregalway Juvenile Football Club believes in adopting a youth centred approach in the development and promotion of Gaelic Football at underage level. Our philosophy is to assist young players to value discipline and to strive to achieve their full potential as they mature and develop. We value all young players and will always treat them with the highest level of respect. Their dignity and personal integrity are paramount to us and we hope that participation in our sport will enable them to have fun, make friends and become better players.

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS.

- 1) Learn and always observe the rules of your game when playing.
- 2) Play fairly and represent your club with pride and dignity: never cheat or feign injury in order to gain unfair advantage or to influence referees decision.
- 3) Always show respect to your team mates, opponents, coaches, spectators and match officials.
- 4) Always be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- 5) Avoid foul language and rude gestures when training or playing in competition and never direct such language or gestures towards team mates, opponents, spectators, coaches or match officials.
- 6) Never intentionally strike or strive to cause physical harm to an opponent on the field of play.
- 7) Bring to the attention of your coach any acts of misbehaviour by other club members.
- 8) Be punctual – avoid being late for training sessions and matches. If unable to attend, please inform your coach in good time.
- 9) Dress modestly when attending training sessions or playing in matches.
- 10) Be properly attired in your club colours when playing in competition.
- 11) Wearing of jewellery is not permitted during training sessions or games.
- 12) Please avoid bringing valuables to training sessions or matches.
- 13) Under no circumstances should mobile phones be used in dressing rooms to take photographs.
- 14) Please insure that your membership is up to date by paying your annual membership fee in good time.
- 15) Always strive to set good example to other club members by observing this Code of Conduct.
- 16) Have fun, make friends and enjoy your football.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MANAGERS AND COACHES.**

- 1) Respect the rights and dignity of every young member regardless of ability.
- 2) Be punctual, properly attired, lead by good example and avoid smoking and the consumption of alcohol in the presence of young players.
- 3) Never shout at or lecture players or ridicule them when they make a mistake. Players should not be afraid to make mistakes.
- 4) Praise and reinforce effort and commitment and provide positive feedback.
- 5) Don't equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with winning.
- 6) Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force.
- 7) Never direct foul language or rude gestures to young players, match officials or spectators.
- 8) Always ensure that your players know the rules of the game and that they observe them
- 9) Rotate the team captaincy and the method used for selecting teams so that the same children are not always last to be selected.
- 10) Do not have a situation where you are alone in a car or dressing room with a child.
- 11) Do not take training sessions on your own.
- 12) Avoid any inappropriate contact when assisting players to perform an exercise or when administering First Aid.
- 13) Make adequate provision for First Aid and never allow players to play when injured. Always call on the services of a medical professional if available.
- 14) Always ensure a safe environment for players e.g. never play games on poor quality pitches or in dangerous weather conditions. Ensure dressing rooms are safe and secure.
- 15) If accepting valuables from players during training sessions or games always ensure their safekeeping.
- 16) Never leave young players unaccompanied while they are waiting to be collected by their parents.
- 17) Repeated misconduct by any one member should be reported to the Juvenile Committee so that appropriate disciplinary action may be taken.
- 18) Make participation in our game a source of fun and enjoyment for our players.
- 19) Ensure good example and a safe environment for all our players by observing this Code of Conduct.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.**

- 1) Parents should encourage their children to maintain an involvement in our sport.
- 2) Parents should endeavour to attend games in competition on a regular basis and assist in the organisation of club activities.
- 3) Parents should not attempt to meet their own needs for success and achievement through their children's participation in our sport.
- 4) Parents should show approval for effort and not just results.
- 5) Parents should not exert undue pressure on their children and should endeavour to make participation in our games enjoyable.
- 6) When attending games always cheer and never jeer.
- 7) Be punctual when dropping of and collecting children from training and matches.
- 8) Ensure that your children have proper gear and are properly attired in club colours when playing in competition.
- 9) We encourage parents to befriend our coaches and managers and to feel free to contact them concerning issues at all times.
- 10) As spectators at our games we would request parents to, at all times behave appropriately.
- 11) Parents should ensure that their children's annual club membership fee is up to date.
- 12) Parents should understand the rules of our game.

# **CLAREGALWAY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

## **Introduction**

Claregalway GAA club encourages all club members and parents to make every reasonable effort to address their concerns and resolve their issues informally before filing a formal, written grievance. It is in the best interest of all involved with the club if we can resolve differences without the need for a formal grievance. The issues would preferably be dealt with in private and not within the view or hearing of other club members, especially the children.

The club policy, through the Coaching Committee is to assist club members, players, coaches and parents to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct thus avoiding problems in the first place.

However if the matter cannot be resolved informally and the individuals wish to have the intervention of club, then a formal, written complaint must be submitted to the Club Secretary. Such complaints will be processed according to the procedure outlined below.

## **Complaint Procedure**

The written complaint should be submitted to the Club Secretary within 2 weeks of the event in question. If the problem is more general and is not related to a specific incident, the complainant must reference some examples of the problem and not just document opinions. The complaint will be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Coaching Committee who is responsible body within the club for dealing with the complaint.

The committee will review the matter and may appoint a committee member to speak to the individual raising the grievance and attempt to resolve the issue. If this is successful the committee chairperson will inform the club secretary of the fact that a grievance had been resolved. The club secretary may inform the juvenile committee of the matter but will only provide broad outlines while always maintaining the anonymity of all parties involved.

If the issue cannot be resolved in this manner the chairperson will convene a meeting of the coaching committee to review the matter. The grievance committee will meet to assess the complaint and determine the most appropriate course of action. This may involve discussions with the parties, gathering and assessment of the information.

If the complaint involves a criminal offense the issue will be handed over to the statutory authorities. Any follow-up actions will be taken in conjunction with relevant authorities.

If deemed necessary and appropriate, a hearing date will be scheduled and all parties are required to appear in front of the committee. Prior to the hearing, the members to whom the grievance addresses will be afforded an opportunity to respond in writing, and this will be provided to all members of the committee as well as to the member who filled the grievance. The time interval for the written responses will be established at the time that the hearing date is scheduled.

## **Conclusions**

The committee will create a written report outlining the procedure followed, findings, conclusions and any disciplinary actions to be taken. All parties should receive a copy of this report. This report should also be kept on record. The Disciplinary Committee should, as soon as possible, inform the Management Committee of the progress and conclusions of the disciplinary process. The decision of the committee will be communicated in writing to the relevant parties.

## **Sanctions**

If the committee finds the accused member guilty of a violation, they may recommend a penalty to the club chairperson. The penalty options include improvement recommendation, verbal warning, written reprimand, suspension and or termination of membership. Disciplinary action will be determined on a case by case basis. Claregalway GAA Club values its members and believes that immediate termination of membership is appropriate only in serious cases of misconduct.

## **Appeals Procedure**

The decision of the Coaching Committee may be appealed in writing to the Senior Club Chairperson. Their decision on the matter will be final.

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