MILLTOWN GFC Code of Best Practice for All Members and Supporters

Adapted from Irish Sports Council's ‘Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children’s Sport’

And the Gaelic Athletic Association’s ‘Code of Best Practice.

Further information including this ‘Code of Best Practice’ regular updates about the club

and its activities are available on the the club’s website, www.milltowngaa.com.

THE CLUB : MILLTOWN GFC, MILLTOWN, NEWBRIDGE, CO. KILDARE.

1. Our Objective

We provide and promote Gaelic games for adult men, adult ladies and boys and girls from 5 years to 21 years of age.

 We are fully committed to safeguarding the well being of our Youth Players, Coaches, Mentors and Members.

Milltown GFC Youth Section

The objective of the Youth Section is to teach players the skills of Gaelic games and to facilitate

the exercise of those skills in a competitive but fun way. It’s an excellent opportunity for

children to learn new skills, become more confident and maximise their own unique potential.

2. Code of Best Practice

Every individual in the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights,

safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and

the guidelines contained in this ‘Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport.

3. Membership

Each player has a responsibility to ensure he/ she is a member of the club. The membership fee should be paid before the season commences at the start of the year. Managers of teams are instructed to only play paid up members in competitions.

Non Payment of membership has serious insurance consequences and will mean that those persons are unable to use club facilities.

4. Training/ Match Days

If a player is unable to attend training or a match it is good manners to advise the Team Coach

that you are unable to attend with as much notice as possible. It is also important that Players

are punctual and arrive on time. If a Player knows he will be away for a period of time such as a

weekend, or a holiday the Coach of the team should be made aware of this as soon as possible.

Coaches are instructed where possible to only use Players who regularly attend training.

5. Dignity & Rights Of Youth

It is important that all young players are valued and always treated with the highest level of

respect. Their personal dignity and physical integrity are paramount and participation in sport should enable them to have fun, make friends and become better players.

6. Putting “Fair Play Into Perspective

The following Principles of FAIR PLAY have been designed to ensure that youth sport is conducted in

a positive/ empowering environment.

• YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD PLAY FOR THE “FUN OF IT”

• ALL YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY

• PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE USED TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP:

o PHYSICALLY – by acquiring basic playing techniques, improving physical fitness and developing lifetime health habits.

o PSYCHOLOGICALLY – by learning to control emotions and develop a sense of confidence in their own ability,technical, tactical and, physical

o SOCIALLY AND MORALLY – by learning to combine with teammates, play by the rules and respect team mentors and match officials.

7. Code of Conduct - Players

· Always do your best, play fairly and have fun

· Always shake hands before and after a match

· Respect officials/referees and accept their decisions

· Do not shout at or argue with the referee, officials, team mates or opponents

· Bullying is totally unacceptable

· Avoid using foul or abusive language

· Always remember that football is a team game and encourage your fellow players

· Respect your club and its property

8. Code of Conduct - Mentors

· Avoid physical or verbal abuse

· Avoid spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others

· Avoid taking children to your home or taking children on journeys alone in your car

· Coach by example and encourage sportsmanship and fair play on the field of play among Youth

· Ensure that sufficient time and attention is given to less talented players

· Try to ensure that training is an enjoyable experience for the players

· Do not put too much emphasis on results

· Avoid verbal exchanges with referees or opposing mentors / players

· Avoid taking sessions alone

· Do not rebuke a child for making a mistake, always encourage.

9. Code of Conduct - Parents/ Guardians

· Always encourage and support your child in their sport

· Be familiar with those mentors who are coaching your child

· Behave responsibly on the sideline

· Bring children to and from training on time

· Encourage your child to play by the rules

· Ensure your child has the proper training/playing gear

· Support the coaches and help out wherever necessary

· Ensure that your child is registered and paid-up

· Respect the coaches’ decisions and encourage your children to do the same

· Show your support for your child/team by attending matches on a regular basis and assisting in

 the organisation of club activities

10. Communication - Disputes

Milltown GFC Youth Section recognises that all our Youth Players are our greatest assets.

 Good communication between the Players his/her teammates and the Coach are essential for the wellbeing of a team and the club. If a person puts himself/herself forward as a Coach, is elected at the football meetings, puts their valuable time into undergoing courses and training a team, he/she must be allowed make the team selections decide the way a team should play.

However it is natural that disputes or disagreements will arise from time to time, between the

Coach and the Player and/or Parent/Guardian. It is important communication should continue and if a Youth Player has a grievance he should first of all try and speak to his Coach about the issue and

the Coach is instructed to give an honest opinion on the issue. Should the player(s) be unhappy

with the response from the Coach he/she should then speak to the Youth Committee Chairman of the club who is instructed to deal with the issue in a nonpartisan way.

11. 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 should be taken into consideration when using sanctions. The following steps are

suggested:

Minor Offences

· A warning should be given if a rule is broken, eg poor conduct.

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

 time.

· If a rule is broken three or more times, the child should be spoken to, and if necessary, the parents/guardians should be informed. If the offences continue the coach can request that the player be suspended from training & matches for a defined period

Serious Offences

Serious offences can be defined as:

· Continuous breaches of discipline

· 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 Mentor is authorised to ask the Parent/Guardian to

collect their child from the training/match and suspend the Player from playing or training for a

defined period pending a full investigation by the Youth Committee of Milltown GFC. The Mentor

will report all incidences of Serious Offences to the Youth Committee of Milltown GFC within 3

days of the alleged offence. On receipt of any such complaint the Youth Committee or a

sub-committee (hereinafter known as the “Disciplinary Committee”) thereof will investigate the

incident and recommend any further sanctions deemed proportionate to the offence involved.

Sanctions can include suspension for a defined period of time including cessation of club

membership. For the purposes of all investigations, the Discplinary Committee will at a minimum

include the Youth Committee Chairman, Youth Committee Secretary and Chairman of the Executive

Milltown GFC. All decisions of the Disciplinary Committee can be appealed to the

Executive Committee of Milltown GFC.

12. Child Welfare Officer

What is the Role of the Child Welfare Officer?

· To develop and maintain a youth centered ethos within Cumann Lúthchleas Gael by promoting

 awareness of the“Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport”.

· To encourage the involvement of parents/guardians in organising activities and to co-operate

 with parents in ensuring that every young person enjoys his/her involvement.

· To establish a link between the Youth and Adult sections of the Club.

· To establish good links with local schools involved in the promotion of Gaelic games.

· To ensure that the rules regarding eligibility for competitions are adhered to.

To ensure that PLAYERS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, COACHES, MENTORS, OFFICIALS & SPECTATORS

Understand and apply the principles of FAIR PLAY.

· The Club Child Welfare Officer does not have the responsibility of assessing, investigating or

validating protection concerns, involving Youth players. It is possible that these concerns will be

brought to the attention of the Child Welfare Officer.

· If the Child Welfare Officer receives a disclosure he/ she should follow the reporting

 procedures set out in the booklet“Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse” copies of which are available from Croke Park in reporting the matter to the clubs Designated person in Milltown’s case the Adult Club Chairperson.

· Further information on Child Protection and Good Practice is available on the following

 websites, www.irishsportscouncil.ie and www.sportprotects.org.uk

The Child Welfare officer for 2011 is Catherine Sweeney.

13. Safety

The club will adopt the following practices in order to promote safety while participating in club

 activities:

· Activities being undertaken should be suitable for the ability, age, and experience of the

 participants

· Equipment and facilities should meet the highest possible standards and be appropriate to the

 maturity of the participants

· Where protective equipment is deemed necessary it should be used

· First Aid should be available for all training sessions and games.

· Parents/guardians should be notified by the relevant coach of injuries/illness which their

 children incur while participating in a sporting activity

· Umpires and referees should ensure that the conduct of the games conform to the standards set

· Children should be taught the rules of the game and be encouraged to abide by them, keeping in

 mind that many rules are there for their own safety

· Parents/guardians should know the starting and finishing times of sessions and events

14. Drug Misuse/ Substance Abuse

The Club policy is in accordance with the GAA publication ‘Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport’.

a copy of which is available on [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)

If there is a suspicion of drug or substance abuse within the club, this must be reported to the Executive Chairperson immediately and will not be tolerated in any way.

15. Player Injury Scheme

The GAA have a player injury scheme in place (not an insurance scheme) that contributes towards out of pocket expenses to players and officials who have injured themselves during participation in

Gaelic games or officially organised training. The scheme is administered by Willis Ireland and

further details are available on the GAA website www.gaa.ie

 Please note that Willis apply strict rules in relation to filing of claims. It is the injured

party's responsibility to ensure that claims are filed on time and proper receipts are retained and

submitted.

 Our Club Website / Contacts

www.milltowngaa.com - MAKE IT YOUR FIRST PORT OF CALL

All members of Milltown GFC are encouraged to refer to our club website on a regular basis for

information about the club, its policies, club contacts, regular updates on club news, upcoming

fixtures and events, Club Lotto results (a vital source of revenue) and many other items of

interest. If you have news or information that may be of interest to our club members, why not

contact us.