



Code of Behaviour

2021 - 2024

Code of Behaviour for Breaffy GAA Club.

Breaffy GAA Club will endeavour to create a positive and encouraging atmosphere for all its members. Winning or striving to win is essential for enjoyable competition but must not be seen as an end in itself. Each individual should show respect and understanding towards each other and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the principles and the sportsmanship of Breaffy GAA Club.

This Code of Behaviour is essential for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all club members. It must be adhered to protect the players, managers, mentors and club officers. Any breach of this code of practice will be taken seriously and will be fully investigated in an appropriate manner.

OFFICERS POSITION

NAME

Chairman:	Gerard Bourke
Secretary:	Celia Rattigan
Treasurer:	Michael Callaghan
Coaching Officer:	John Fahey
BNN Chairman:	Bernard Murray
BNN Secretary:	Caroline Costello

Printed Date: ***7 February 2021***

References

Irish Sports Council (2000) *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport
Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport*
Dept of Health and Children (1999) *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*

This code of practice is presented in five parts to provide guidelines to

Youth,

Managers, Mentors and Coaches,

Parents/Guardians and Adult members / supporters

Social Media

Safeguarding Children - procedures

Section 1: Youth

Dignity and 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.

Breaffy GAA believes that a youth centred approach should be adopted by everyone involved in the promotion and development of Gaelic games at underage level. The GAA Coaching resources and activity programmes are firmly rooted in this philosophy and highlight the importance of participation, enjoyment and equality. These are also structured to assist young people to value discipline and to strive to achieve their full potential as they mature and develop.

- Children's Officer in Breaffy GAA Club 2021 is Celia Rattigan

Young People Should:

- Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves.
- Represent their family and Breaffy Club with pride and dignity.
- Shake hands before and after the game irrespective of the result.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions.
- Respect fellow members giving them support when they do well or not so well.
- Respect their opponents.
- Accept apologies from opponents when they are offered.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Set high standards of fair play for others to follow.
- Adhere to proper standards of behaviour and presentation and the club code of practice
- Let the Coach know when they are unavailable for training and competition.
- Should any young person have any concerns they should approach the team manager, mentor or if appropriate consult the Children's Officer.
- Always show respect for Bus Drivers when travelling, and represent the club well, setting a proud and good example, keep the bus tidy and remove all rubbish from the bus.

Young people should not:

- Cheat – always play by the rules
- Spread rumours.
- Bully or take unfair advantage.
- Tell lies about adults or other children.
- Misuse drugs, alcohol or other intoxicants

(Breaffy GAA Club have appointed 2 Health & Wellbeing Officer's Helen Heneghan & Siobhan Dravins.

Young people are entitled to:

- Be safe.
- Be happy, have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment
- Be treated with respect.
- Comment and make suggestions in a constructive manner.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Be listened to,
- Participate on an equal basis.

Section 2: Managers/ Coaches/ Mentors

Players first – winning second

Competition should be used as a basis to encourage young people to develop their full potential. Players will be motivated by a range of internal and external factors e.g. prove to themselves or significant others – parents, coaches, teachers, etc – that they have the required level of ability.

Code of conduct

- Ensure you are properly registered before March 31st as a member of Breaffy GAA Club as per GAA Regulations
- Ensure your Garda Vetting form is completed and returned to Club Secretary.
- Ensure that all players are registered with the club.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat each one equally.
- Be positive during coaching sessions so that participants always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Recognise the development needs of young players, rotate the team captain as appropriate and the method used for selecting teams so that children are treated equally.
- Be punctual, properly attired, lead by example; avoid smoking or the consumption of alcohol in the presence of young people.
- Plan and prepare appropriately for each session, unless there are two mentors present training should be cancelled.
- It is mandatory that the minimum level of coaching accreditation & Safeguarding Level 1 has been completed.
- Ensure games, activities and playing equipment is customised to suit the needs of those involved in terms of age, ability, experience and maturity.
- Be generous with praise, never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a game, don't equate losing with failure.
- Encourage parents/guardians to play an active role in organising activities.

- Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Ensure you are accompanied when dealing with a player in a non public environment.
- Avoid any inappropriate touching when assisting players to perform a technique or when First Aid is being administered.
- Make adequate provision for First Aid and do not encourage or allow players to play while injured. (Keep an adequate record of each injury and ensure that another official – referee /team mentor – is present when a player is being attended to and can corroborate the relevant details).
- Ensure players are safely attired.

Coaches are not permitted to communicate individually via social media with underage players

Section 3: Parents/Guardians & Adult Members

Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the care and welfare of their children. Parents/guardians should encourage their children to participate in GAA for fun and enjoyment and should ensure that their child's experience of sport is a positive one. Lessons learned in children's sport will shape values and attitudes in adult life. They should always remember that children play sport for their own enjoyment & not that of the parents/guardians. Parents/guardians have a duty to ensure that the context in which their child is participating is appropriate.

Parents/guardians will ideally work in partnership to promote good practice in children's sport and to support all efforts to protect against neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse in sporting activities. To do so, parents/guardians should ensure that Breaffy GAA Club treats their children with fairness, respect and understanding, and that the club is fulfilling its responsibility to safeguard children. They should encourage their children to tell them about anyone causing them harm. They should become aware of club procedures and policies, in particular where changes are made that affect them or their children, and be informed of all matters relating to ethics and good practice. The *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport* has been adopted and implemented in the Breaffy GAA Club.

Parents/guardians should remember that children learn best by example. To assist in the promotion of good practice with the club or organization they should:

- Be aware of the relevant Managers/Mentors and their role within the club
- Show appreciation of Managers/Mentors and respect for and their decisions
- Encourage their child to play by the rules
- Behave responsibly on the sideline
- Focus on their child's efforts rather than performance

- Focus on the fun and participation of the child in the activity
- Liaise with the Managers/Mentors in relation to the times/locations of training sessions, medical conditions of their children and any requirement for their child's safety.

To promote the procedures of good practice parents/guardians should be:

- Encouraged to become members of the club, where feasible, and take an active interest in the running of the club or any sporting activities in which their children take part.
- Informed of the training and/or competitive programmes and be satisfied with the general environment that is created for their children
- Informed if their child sustained an injury during GAA activities
- Informed of problems or concerns relating to their children
- Informed in advance and have their consent sought in relation to matters regarding away trips, camps or specially activities
- Comments and suggestions by parents/guardians should always be considered and their complaints acknowledged and dealt with as they arise through an effective and confidential complaints procedure.

Breaffy GAA club expects that all supporters, whether parents, members or non members always behave in an acceptable manner and comply with all principles of the Clubs Code of Practice 2021-2024

Parents/guardians should not:

- Ignore or dismiss complaints or concerns expressed by a child which relate to his/her involvement in GAA, ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game
- Put undue pressure on their child for making a mistake or losing a game
- Shout un-necessarily from the sideline, Criticize from the sideline, Encroach onto the pitch area, or partake in any inappropriate behavior or action at a game
- Put undue pressure on their child to please or perform well, including forcing a child to participate when ill, or take safety for granted
- Treat the club as a child-minding service.

Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure.

- All members/parents/guardians/children who are dissatisfied can register a complaint and an open process of investigation will take place.
- Every effort will be made to deal with complaints informally by Managers/Mentors/Parents and Club Officials where appropriate.
- Where informal measures fail to resolve a particular complaint the following shall apply:

Complaints must be made in writing to the secretary of the Breaffy GAA Club (Men's or Bord na nÓg).

- The complaint should outline all relevant details.
 - The complaint should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson who will convene the disciplinary committee, i.e. Chairperson/Secretary and other personnel as deemed appropriate.
 - The disciplinary committee should hear the case of all parties involved and decide if a rule or regulation has been infringed.
 - They should, in writing, inform those involved of the sanctions/recommendations to be imposed. Written notification should be given to parents if the complaint is against a junior member.
 - Secretary should keep all records on file.
 - If any party does not agree with the disciplinary committee's decision they can appeal the decision in writing within 10-day period to the secretary.
 - The Chairperson of Breaffy GAA Club will request the County Board Secretary to convene an appeals committee. This committee will comprise if the Secretary of County Board and a minimum of two others at his/her discretion.
 - The appeals committee should confirm or set aside or change any sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee.
 - The appeals committee will report their findings to the executive of the club.
- If the complaint involves a criminal offence the chairperson should disband the disciplinary committee and talk to the children's Liason Officer. The statutory authorities must be informed immediately.

Social Media

Social media plays an ever increasing and important role in the organisation and promotion of our Games. It provides an engaging forum through which the GAA community can connect.

All members and officials should keep in mind the overall values and principles of the GAA when using social media. These are:

1. RESPECT
2. PLAYER WELFARE
3. COMMUNITY IDENTITY
4. AMATEUR STATUS
5. TEAMWORK
6. INCLUSIVENESS

We should be careful to ensure that our online actions reflect these values and are not contrary to what the GAA represents.

The full Social Media Policy can be viewed on our website.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – AGREED PROCEDURES

Breaffy GAA Club have agreed on Child Safeguarding initiatives and polices so as to ensure, in so far as is, practicably possible, the safety of children from the risk of harm while playing our games and participating in our activities.

The adoption of such agreed documents alone will not achieve this aim. However, the continuous commitment and implementation of such good practices by dedicated volunteers in our club will assist us as we seek to create a safe environment for young people in which to grow and develop.

Equally so the role of parents in supporting our work and the vigilance of our members as we jointly pursue this aim.

In particular agreed procedures now require that all coaches of underage teams or teams that include any person under 18 years of age must fulfil the following criteria;

1. Undertake agreed vetting and background Police checks within the jurisdiction(s) in which they operate.
2. Attend relevant Gaelic Games child safeguarding training.
3. Possess a coaching qualification relevant to their role as recognised by their Association.

Our agreed policies and procedures are in accordance with current legislative requirements and include:

1. The publication of a Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all members and units of our Associations.
2. Carrying out an annual Risk Assessment procedure at our Club
3. A Code of Behaviour (Underage) which includes:

4. Child safeguarding training requirements
5. Anti-Bullying statement
6. Social Media policy
7. Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse
8. Appointing Designated Liaison Persons in the club
9. Appointing Children's Officers in the Club

Breaffy GAA Club is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all our young players who wish to participate in our games and activities.

We will take all practicable steps to protect them from discernable forms of abuse - from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

This online version of this document can be viewed on www.breaffyga.ie

Edited by Celia Rattigan
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Breaffy GAA Club 2021