



Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club

Code of Conduct



Introduction

We want Lucan Sarsfields to be known and respected in Dublin and throughout Ireland as a club which upholds the ideals of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

We are reputed for high standards from our players, officials, mentors and spectators in terms of commitment and preparation, as well as the sporting attitude and behaviour which we show to those with whom our games bring us in contact.

We, the membership, have a duty to ensure that standards and our club's reputation are maintained at the highest level. Gaelic games offer physical challenges, emotional satisfaction and lifelong values and experiences for those who play.

The following Code of Conduct is based on standards of ethical behaviour, which are fundamental to Gaelic games, in combination with skill development and style of play.

By following the Code of Conduct, the enjoyment of players, mentors and supporters will be maximised.

Club Executive

Players

1. Always remember that you are representing Lucan Sarsfields, not just yourself or your own team.
2. Trust and show respect for your team mentors. Acknowledge that they are human, that they are volunteers, not professionals, and will make mistakes.
5. Try to make your teammates' contribution as productive as possible, in training and in matches, by encouraging rather than criticising.
6. Before games, remain with your teammates and obey your mentors' instructions in relation to behaviour in the



3. Always let your mentors know well in advance, if you cannot attend a training session and, especially, if you will not be available for a match.
4. Always wear the correct, clean Lucan Sarsfields kit and any other sportswear as specified by your mentors.
7. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself. Don't be a show-off or a glory-hunter.

Players



8. Show respect for the referee and be aware that he/she is likely to respond unfavourably when criticised. Do not question his decisions or give "cheek". Give your name if asked and accept the referee's approach responsibly, without dissent. Do not touch any referee, even if your purpose is well intentioned.
9. Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Play hard but fairly and within the rules, do not intend to hurt your opponent. Do not "bully" or take advantage of any player.
10. Control your temper and most of all, resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel

you have been wronged. Do not react to intimidating tactics from opponents.

11. Do not fake injury with the intention of having an opposing player booked or sent off.
12. Do not leave your position on the field to get involved in any way in an incident elsewhere on the field.



13. Concentrate on playing the game and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best efforts.
14. Don't use foul or offensive language at matches. Be aware that you act as role models for younger members.
15. Do not, verbally or otherwise, abuse any player or person involved with the opposing team on the

grounds of race or colour. Such behaviour is unethical and against the law.

16. Always shake hands with the players of the opposing team when games have finished and thank the referee for the match. Go quietly with your teammates to your team's dressing room.
17. Always respect the facilities made available to you, both at Lucan Sarsfields and away from home.
18. Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve skills and feel good.
19. Win with humility – lose with dignity.



Mentors

1. Always remember that you are representing Lucan Sarsfields, not just yourself or your own team.
2. Respect and be fair to all players under your care. Respect and fair play must also be encouraged and emphasised within training sessions and competitions. Treat less talented players with as much respect as stars.
4. Condemn the use of violence in all forms at every opportunity. Managers are responsible for their players' actions on the field. Unsportsmanlike tactics (i.e., the intent to injure opposing players), taunting, deliberate faking of injuries and "professional fouls" are unethical and forbidden.
5. Acquaint yourself fully with the rules of Gaelic games, adhere to the letter and spirit of these rules and do not circumvent them to gain advantage. You are responsible for ensuring that players understand the intent and application of the rules, and should impress on players that they must abide by them at all times.
6. The importance of winning must never supersede the players' safety and welfare. Ensure that your players' experience is one of fun and enjoyment. Winning is only one aspect and is the result of good preparation and discipline.
7. Encourage feedback from players. Be prepared to ask for and listen to the opinions of others.
8. Ensure that each player understands what is expected of him/her. The team should also fully understand what is expected of it. Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy, enthusiasm and their performance on the playing field.
9. Destructive criticism does not result in improved performance. Players respond better to positive comments. Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved.
10. Maintain good relations, despite the heat of battle, with opposing players and mentors. Avoid verbal dissent during a game with an opposing manager.
11. Do not, verbally or otherwise, abuse any player or person involved with the opposing team on the grounds of race or colour. Such behaviour is unethical and against the law. If players on your panel behave in this way, take stern action, including dropping these players from the panel.
12. Respect the match officials and don't let bad decisions deflect you from running the team.
13. Avoid using abusive or offensive language towards players in your charge, towards match officials or indeed in all situations. Such language reduces your credibility.
14. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, and for the judgement of referees and opposing coaches.
15. Keep informed about sound principles of coaching and team development techniques.
16. The protection of children from any form of abuse must be a priority for all who are involved in children's sports. Therefore, mentors should ensure that another mentor, or a parent or another adult, is present at all times when s/he are with players in dressing rooms, training sessions and matches.
17. If criticism is to be levelled against match officials, complaints must be made in writing by the Secretary of the Club to the appropriate authorities responsible for match officiating assignments.
18. Mentors and players must not address the referee before, during or after the game in a demeaning or intimidating way. Mentors must not incite players, parents or spectators against referees and must avoid any conduct which is construed as physically or verbally abusive. In particular, referees never change match results after receiving "input" from a disgruntled and angry mentor! If you have a well-thought out and positive reason to speak to a referee after a game, ensure your approach is equally well thought-out and positive.



Spectators

Application of the Code of Conduct

1. Always remember that you are a member of Lucan Sarsfields and are representing the club at any matches you attend.
2. Don't use foul or offensive language at matches. Be aware that children are present.
3. Our amateur players and mentors put in huge efforts on a totally voluntary basis. Support players and mentors rather than slate or person involved with the opposing team on the grounds of race or colour. Do not encourage others to carry out such abuse. Such behaviour is unethical and against the law.
7. If the pitch is surrounded by a rope or barrier, substitutes and spectators should stay behind this at all times during the match. In any event, do not get on to the pitch at any time.



4. Referees are human and will make mistakes. Criticising them publicly achieves nothing positive, and may well have the opposite effect – referees may well deny our team the benefit of any marginal decisions as a result.
5. Respect the opposition and don't vilify opposing players. Never get involved in an altercation with an opposing player, mentor or spectator.
6. Do not, verbally or otherwise, abuse any player them. Motivate by praising.
8. Be careful of intervening to break up any altercation at a game – your intentions can be misinterpreted. When in any doubt, stay out.
9. Foster good post-match relations with the opposition.
10. Good-natured banter, among our own spectators and exchanged with the opposing team's fans, is a time-honoured and excellent feature of spectating at Gaelic games, adding considerably to enjoyment.

It is the duty of all members of Lucan Sarsfields (and the Parents of members aged less than 18 years) to familiarise themselves with all the rules of the club and, in particular, to ensure that they have read and understand the Code of Conduct as outlined above.

The Executive Committee of Lucan Sarsfields has the power to deal with any breaches of this code by players, mentors or other members as it sees fit, up to the ultimate sanction of banning the offending individuals or teams from all club activities and revoking their membership of Lucan Sarsfields.

