



Aghinagh GAA Juvenile Code of Ethics, Conduct, Behaviour For Club, Coaches/Mentors, Parents/Guardians & Juvenile Members

This document briefly outlines the main points of the code of ethics, conduct and practice for all club officials, officers, members, mentors, players, parents and/or guardians associated with Aghinagh Juvenile GAA Club. We encourage you to review this information and familiarize yourself with the standards expected by and in the Club.

Club Activities:

As a Club, Aghinagh are fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all club officials, officers, members, mentors and players. 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.

It is the responsibility of all members to be familiar with the guidelines set forth in the code of conduct and for parents/guardians to explain and enforce this code of conduct with their own children.

Young Players/Juvenile Members:

Young players can benefit greatly from sport in terms of personal development & enjoyment. Our players are encouraged to realize that as a result of their participation with Aghinagh, that they also have a responsibility to treat other players and officials with fairness and respect.

Young Players Are Entitled To:

- Be safe and feel safe
- Have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfillment
- Be treated with respect and dignity
- Participate in games and competitions at levels which they feel comfortable
- Be given appropriate playing time to assist in the development of their playing skills
- Make their concerns known and be listened to

Young Players Should Always:

- Respect all coaches, officials and their opponents
- Shake hands before/after games as part of the give respect initiative
- Take due care of Club equipment
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to the club children's officer with **ANY** concerns they may have.
- Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour and Aghinagh's code of ethics, conduct, and behaviour.

Coaches, Mentors & Trainers:

All Aghinagh coaches, mentors and trainers shall ensure that young people and children benefit significantly from GAA games, by promoting a positive, healthy and participatory approach in their work with the development of skill levels of juvenile and under age players. Coaches shall always encourage enjoyment & fun while ensuring meaningful participation in GAA games and activities. Coaches **must** always remember that they are role models for the players in their care

Coaches Should Lead By Example:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person
- Never use foul/abusive language/gestures to players, opponents or match officials
- Be positive during coaching sessions, games and other activities, so that under age players always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self esteem
- Recognize the development needs and capacity of **all** under age players, regardless of their ability, by emphasizing participation for all while avoiding excessive training and competition. Skills development and personal satisfaction should have priority over competition when working with underage players
- Do not equate losing with failure and do not develop a pre-occupation with medals and trophies. The level of improvement made by underage players is the best indicator of effective coaching
- Coaches should avoid compromising situations by never taking training sessions on their own

Parents/Guardians:

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. Together 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 Assist The Club:

- Showing appreciation to volunteers, coaches and club officials
- Attend trainings and games on a regular basis
- Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating each other equally

Parents/Guardians Have The Right To:

- Know their child is safe and to make a complaint if they believe that their child safety is in any way compromised
- Be informed of problems/concerns relating to their child
- Complain if they have concerns about the standard of coaching
- Have, as a member, a say in relation to decisions being made within the club

Child Protection:

Sport provides an excellent opportunity for children to learn new skills, become more confident and maximize their own unique potential. Adults must contribute to the creation of a positive sporting environment for young people. Children should be encouraged to win in an open and fair way. Behavior which constitutes cheating in any form should be discouraged. The trust implicit in adult-child relationships in sport places a duty of care on all adults, voluntary or professional, to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the child, while engaged in their sporting activity.

Garda Vetting:

The National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 - 2016 commenced on 29th April 2016 and from that date a statutory obligation was placed upon the GAA to ensure that all persons who on our behalf undertook 'relevant work' with children have been vetted prior to taking up that role in Ireland. In the GAA any person who carries out a role of responsibility such as coaching, managing or training underage teams or indeed adult teams that contain any player under 18 yrs. of age must be vetted. It also applies to organizing underage activities or refereeing underage games.

How can you be vetted through the GAA?

Vetting for a member of the GAA involves 3 easy to follow steps as follows:

Step 1 The initial application vetting process at Club level

You must in the first instance complete the [GAA E-Vetting ID Form](#). This form compels you to provide proof of your identity to the **Club Children's Officer**, who must verify that they have received the ID verification as required. The ID verification may be retained by the Club Children's Officer for the duration of the e-vetting process or it may be attached by you at Step 2 to the On Line Vetting application Form.

The primary purpose of this form is for you to provide your name, address, club, role for which you applied, and to present your ID (e.g. copy of your passport plus a utility bill showing your current address) plus a valid email address for future reference. The full list of documents which are accepted for verification can be found on the rebel og website/admin/Garda vetting

Step 2 Completing the Vetting Application form

Following completion of the initial process you will then be directed to www.gaa.ie where the GAA on-line E-Vetting Application Form is available to download.

Once you complete the GAA on-line E-Vetting Application Form the information provided is forwarded to the NVB by the GAA and you will receive an on-line NVB Vetting Form to complete.

The details entered will be emailed back to you, for your own records. Your Club Secretary will also receive an email informing him/her that you have applied as a member of the club, to be issued with the NVB Vetting Application Form.

Step 3 NVB Vetting Application form

The NVB will issue you with the NVB Vetting Application form. This will be issued to the email address you provided in Step 2.

Completing this form is a confidential matter between you and the NVB. All sections of the form including current and previous addresses, email address and contact telephone numbers, information on convictions and prosecutions (if any), plus other information will be required when completing the form.

Once all sections of the form have been answered this then completes your application process for E Vetting in the GAA and within a short period of time you shall be contacted by the GAA to informing you as to the outcome of the vetting application

You and your Club Secretary will be notified when the vetting process has been completed.

General Conduct:

The Club expects all members to behave as responsible individuals. Serious misconduct by a club member will result in that member having to appear before the club disciplinary committee.

The following are examples of behaviour and actions which can result in serious disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the club:

- Willful damage to club property or that of visiting teams
- Bringing the club into disrepute through a player's actions during a training session, match or any event organized by the club
- Serious breach of safety requirements
- Sexual harassment / Bullying of another individual
- Violation of any criminal law
- Acts of physical violence
- Any action by a club member in breach of the club code of ethics, conduct & practice

In the event of ongoing breaches of the aforementioned, it will be the club's policy to refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee (Children's Officers, Chairman, Secretary) who will investigate the matter. Every effort will be made to resolve the issue as fairly as possible, Failure to do so the matter will be dealt with by the club GPC in the appropriate manner.

Code Declaration/Signatory:

Complete this panel and return it to your Club's Children's Officer or other nominated club official

This code of behaviour addresses the minimum levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our young players, coaches parents/guardians

Declaration:

I _____ acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Aghinagh Juvenile Code of Behaviour, which I have read and understand in full. I agree to be bound by the principles set out in this code when participating, playing or attending games on behalf of Aghinagh Juvenile GAA.

Signed: _____ (Member 12 years and older) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent / Guardian) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Coach) Date: _____