

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS GAA CLUB



CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTION STATEMENT.

Adopted 29th February 2016

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club Child Welfare and Protection Statement.

This Child Protection and Welfare Statement has been prepared by Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club having regard to :

“Our Games - Our Code: Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport when working with underage players” GAA September 2015

GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Fourth Edition 2009

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1.0 CHILD WELFARE MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF CASTLEBAR MITCHELS GAA CLUB

The club's mission statement is to:

- **Create and maintain the safest possible environment for all young people who participate in Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club and activities.**
- **Take all practical steps to protect young people from discernible forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings.**
- **Provide the opportunity and encouragement for each child to enjoy gaelic games in a safe, positive learning environment, with the promotion of the values of fairness, mutual respect, courtesy and tolerance of others.**
- **Ensure a special effort is made to foster self discipline, enjoyment, physical fitness and high standards of gaelic games.**

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club believes that the welfare of the child is paramount and recognises that all children have the right to be safe and that this fundamental principal takes precedence over all other considerations.

The work of Castlebar Mitchels GAA club is based on the following principles that will guide the development of sport for young people in this club. Children's experience of gaelic games should always be guided by what is best for the children.

The stages of development and the ability of the child should guide the types of activity provided within the club. Adults should have a basic understanding of the physical, emotional and personal needs of children.

Guiding Principles.

Integrity in relationships:

Adults interacting with young people in gaelic games should do so with integrity and respect for the child. All adult actions in Castlebar Mitchels should be guided by what is best for the child and in the context of quality, open working relationships. Verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse of any kind is unacceptable within Castlebar Mitchels GAA club.

Quality atmosphere and competition:

Gaelic games for all children will be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. A balanced approach to competition can make a significant contribution to the development of young people, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and

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satisfaction. Coaches/managers/mentors must put the welfare of the children first and competitive standards second. A child-centred approach will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

Equality:

All children should be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, sex, sexual orientation, religion, social and ethnic diversity or political persuasion. Children with disabilities should be involved in sports activities in an integrated way, thus allowing them to participate to their potential alongside other children.

Fair Play:

Fair play is the guiding principle of the Irish Sports Council's Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. It states that "*all children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play*". Ireland has contributed to and is committed to the European Code of Sports Ethics, which defines fair play as: "*much more than playing within the rules*". It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing with the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving.

2.0 Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club Child and Protection Statement.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club is committed to ensuring that all necessary steps will be taken to protect and safeguard the welfare of children who participate in gaelic sports. This policy document is intended to demonstrate the importance placed by Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club on the welfare and safety of children who participate in our club.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club recognise and accepts its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and by protecting them from physical, emotional or sexual harm and from neglect or bullying. Clear policies, practices and procedures in addition to relevant training programmes will ensure that everybody in Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to protecting children and young people within the activities of the club.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club will take all practicable steps to protect children discernible forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club:

- Recognises that all children have the right to be protected from harm.
- Will ensure that all our coaches and volunteers are carefully recruited and selected in accordance with our own guidelines and relevant legislative requirements and that they accept responsibility for ensuring the wellbeing of children in their care. Respond swiftly and appropriately to any allegations or concerns so as to protect the welfare of children who participate in our games and related activities.
- Appoint a Children's Officer.

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- Appoint a Designated Officer in the club who will liaise with the statutory authorities as appropriate.
- Provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- Ensure that all allegations of abuse of young people are confidentially dealt with in accordance the Association Guidelines and relevant legislation.
- Review the effectiveness of our Child Protection and Welfare procedures and related policies on an on-going basis.
- Ensure that members, coaches, team mentors, administrators, parents & guardians and spectators sign up to and adhere to our Code of Behaviour.
- Promote the “Give Respect - Get Respect” initiative at all levels within our club.

3.0 CASTLEBAR MITCHELS GAA CLUB CHILD WELFARE POLICY.

It is essential that children who participate in Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club activities are able to do so in a safe, enjoyable and quality environment. In pursuit of this it is the Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club Child Welfare Policy to:

- **Demonstrate best practice in the area of child welfare and protection.**
- **Provide appropriate guidance, procedures and advice to all club members (players, coaches, volunteers, and parents) in all matters concerning child welfare and protection.**
- **Promote the ethics and best practice standards of the GAA throughout the club membership.**

4.0 CASTLEBAR MITCHELS ANTI-BULLYING POLICY STATEMENT.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club aims to create a supportive environment where any form of bullying is unacceptable. We adopt a whole organisational approach to addressing bullying and are committed to implementing structures and relevant training to deal with allegations of bullying. Incidents of bullying are regarded as serious breaches of our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport - Our Games Our Code. We are committed to achieving an ethos of respect so as to maximise the potential of all our members when playing or participating in our Gaelic Games.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club seeks to ensure that:

- **Incidents of bullying behaviour are addressed appropriately.**

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- **All club members, parents, coaches and mentors are aware that bullying behaviour is unacceptable in Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club.**

The Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club Coach/Mentor Code of Conduct provides good practice guidance in relation to the prevention of bullying.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club recognises that incidents of bullying are a breach of the Code of Behaviour and of our Give Respect - Get Respect initiative and all such incidents will be dealt with accordingly.

5.0 PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT POLICY.

5.1 Coach, Manager, Volunteer Education & Support Policy.

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club will follow the ***Guidance on Recruitment and Selection*** in "Our Games Our Code" published by the GAA.

1. Role clarification

The role envisaged for each person and the age group that it is proposed they should work with and the responsibilities relating to the role and the level of experience or qualifications required will be clarified at the outset.

2. Role assistance

All personnel will be required to have at least a Foundation Level Coaching Certificate and Child Welfare Training. The club will facilitate these requirements.

3. Application form

Applicants will be required to complete an application form prior to commencing any role when working with underage players.

4. References

As part of the recruitment process references will be sought from applicants. These may refer to the person's character and if applicable to the applicants previous background in sports and in Gaelic Games, if applicable. All references will be verified by the club.

5. Garda Vetting.

All applicants are required to complete Garda Vetting, prior to the commencement of their role(s) with young people in the club.

6. Meet the applicant.

A senior representative of the Club will meet with each applicant to ensure that they are aware of the role(s) allocated to them and use the occasion to clarify any issues that may arise and identify any coaching or up-skilling needs as appropriate.

7. Code of Behaviour for all Persons Working with Underage players

All persons who work with young people will be required to sign the Code of Behaviour. This declaration will be retained by the Club in respect of everybody working with underage personnel, regardless of their role.

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8. Child Welfare Training

All persons working with underage players are required to undertake recognised Child Welfare Training provided by the club.

9. Support and Review

Continuous supports, as requested, will be made available to all coaches etc so as to enable them fulfil their roles.

5.2 Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club Coach/Mentor Code of Conduct

All coaches/managers in Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the players with whom they work, as far as possible within the limits of their control and are committed to.

The role of all Coaches, Mentors and Trainers is to ensure that young people and children benefit significantly from our games by promoting a positive, healthy and participatory approach in their work with underage players. In developing the skills levels of every player, Coaches should always encourage enjoyment and fun while ensuring meaningful participation in our games and activities.

Coaches should always remember that they are role models for the players in their care.

The role and responsibilities of Coaches, Mentors and Trainers is set out in Appendix 1 - Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club Coach/Mentor Code of Conduct.

6.0 CASTLEBAR MITCHELS CHILDREN'S OFFICER.

The key role of the Club Children's Officer is to ensure the implementation and promotion of the relevant Child Welfare and Protection Codes and Guidelines for good practice in their Club so as to ensure that young people can participate, enjoy and benefit from our Gaelic Games in safe and enjoyable surroundings. Our Games - Our Code is the agreed good practice reference and policy document that is central to guiding the Children's Officer in their role.

Responsibilities of the Club Children's Officer:-

- **Promote awareness of Our Games – Our Code and the joint Code of Behaviour within the Club.**
- **Identify the need and facilitate the delivery of Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshops and other relevant Child Protection and Welfare training within the Club.**
- **Distribute and oversee the implementation of the Joint Code of Behaviour – when working with underage players and ensure in so far as possible, that all Players, Coaches, Team Mentors, Parents, Guardians, Officials and Spectators adhere to the Code.**

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- Promote an Anti Bullying ethos in the Club and deal with instances or allegations of Bullying in a fair, impartial and constructive manner and in collaboration with others as appropriate.
- Ensure that each under age member signs and submits an annual membership form, a parental consent form as required (away trips etc) and that the necessary medical information of an underage player, as deemed relevant, is made known to the Club and/or the team coaches.
- Support the implementation of the RESPECT initiative at Club level in co-operation with team personnel, underage members, referees, spectators, parents and guardians.
- Influence policy and practice in the Club in order to prioritise the needs of our underage players.
- Promote greater consultation with under age players and participation by them in Club activities and planning.
- Ensure that young people are afforded the opportunity to express concerns about their sports activities/experiences within the Club.
- Encourage the involvement of parents/ guardians in organising Club activities.
- Develop good practice procedures in the recruitment and selection of persons working with young people in the Club.
- Oversee the implementation of Garda Vetting within the club.
- Monitor, in association with team coaches, any significant trends or developments relating to the participation of young people in Gaelic Games and report accordingly to the Club Executive or Management Committee.
- Maintain on-going contact with the County Board Children's Officer and with other Club Children's Officers.
- Report regularly to the Club Executive Committee as required.
- Deal with breaches of Our Games – Our Code and the joint Code of Behaviour as per relevant guidance.
- Make referrals of alleged allegations of abuse to the Club Designated Person.

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- **Conduct an annual audit of best practice in child protection and welfare within the Club and report accordingly.**

The Club Children's Officer does not have the responsibility to investigate or validate child protection allegations or concerns within the Club. The liaison person appointed by the Club to deal with such concerns is the Club's Designated Person.

7.0 CLUB DESIGNATED PERSON.

The Club will appoint a Designated Person who will be responsible for dealing with any allegations or suspicions of child abuse accordance with the procedures set down in Section 6 of the *GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse 2009*.

8.0 CASTLEBAR MITCHELS AWAY TRIPS PROCEDURE.

The Club is often invited to participate in trips away from home throughout the year in addition to the regular games that take place as part of a County fixtures schedule or during inter Club blitzes. The Club views these trips as a means by which our young teams and players are rewarded for their endeavours at the end of the season or as a means by which the team can develop greater team morale and camaraderie among the players.

The Club regards visiting other clubs and playing matches against teams of a similar age group in other areas or counties as giving younger players an insight into the broad geographical nature and community ethos attached to gaelic football while creating greater camaraderie with their colleagues and within their own clubs.

Our Games - Our Code sets out a procedure for Away Trips which Castlebar Mitchels will follow. The procedure is set down in Appendix 3.

Coaches/Volunteers are not permitted to travel alone in their cars with children.

9.0 THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND FILMING EQUIPMENT

Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club recognises that taking photographs of players and teams and the videoing of events, games and training and coaching sessions are a normal occurrence within most GAA clubs.

In order to minimise the risk or threat that inappropriate use of photographs or the recording of images may pose for young people the Club proposes the following safeguards which will permit and facilitate the recording of relevant and suitable materials and allow us to photograph the enjoyment of participating in our games us to promote club activities in a safe and non threatening manner.

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Guidelines for Photographic/Recorded Images

- Ask for the player's and parental permission to use their image. This consent could be included in the annual registration form.
- All children/young people featured in recordings must be appropriately dressed.
- The photograph or recording should focus on the activity rather than a particular young person.
- In general, no personal details relating to the young person should be revealed as accompanying materials to the photograph or recorded image, with the exception being where they are being publicly acknowledged (e.g. an award or personal achievement), for which consent has been given.
- Group and team photographs may be taken but it is not necessary to match a player's name with the position in which they may be standing or seated in the team photograph. This is a precautionary recommendation based on previous examples of misuse of photographs by those who sought to exploit the gathering of young people together in an enjoyable and fun environment.
- Clubs, coaches and volunteers should be permitted to use video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid and as a means of recording special occasions; however, care should be taken in the dissemination, storage and use of such material.
- Parents and spectators taking photographs/recordings should where possible seek permission in advance from the Club/County Board and should also be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state the purpose for their photography/filming
- If Club/County Board personnel are unhappy about any matter relating to such photography the permission granted should be withdrawn immediately.
- When commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to a game or session ensure that they are clear about our expectations of them in relation to child protection.
- Any instances of the use of inappropriate images should be reported to the Club/County Board Children's Officer and/or appropriate Designated Person and also to the relevant statutory authorities if deemed necessary.
- No photography is allowed in the changing room/dressing areas. This includes the use of camera phones.

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It should be noted that the club has little or no influence on what photographs may be taken and published in local or national newspapers as such photography is covered by a different set of guidelines.

10.0 PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT.

Castlebar Mitchels demands and expects exemplary sportsmanship and conduct of all players. While it is the objective of the Club to have well prepared, disciplined teams representing the club at all levels – teams that club members, parents, family and people of Castlebar can be proud of we need the help of and active participation of players. To help the club to achieve its objective Appendix 2 - The Castlebar Mitchels Players Code of Conduct sets out the club's requirements on player behaviour.

11.0 THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

Castlebar Mitchels believe that Parents/Guardians of our players have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to fully participate in football whether by playing themselves or attending training or coaching sessions.

In common with the Coaches and Club personnel of Castlebar Mitchels the Parents & Guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children as they participate in football.

Appendix 3 - The Role of Parents & Guardians sets out the club's view on the responsibilities that Parents & Guardians have in the development children's and underage football.

12.0 DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE.

Any member/employee of the Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club, who is informed, knows, suspects or is concerned that a child may be or may have been subject to child abuse, while engaged in Association activities or involving persons acting on behalf of the association, has a duty to convey such concerns as a matter of urgency to the club's Designated Person.

12.1 The Role of the Designated Person

The Club Designated Person is obliged to follow the procedures set down in Section 6 of the *GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse 2009*.

The Club Designated Person is responsible for referring all allegations or suspicions of child abuse to the County Designated Person. It is the County Designated person, having consulted with their Club counterpart, and having established reasonable grounds for concern, who will duly report such concerns to the Health Service Executive and/or An Garda Síochána and the Provincial & National Designated Person.

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The Club Designated Person shall accept reports, allegations or concerns of abuse from members or non members of the GAA verbally or in writing

All reports made, whether internal or external to the GAA, shall note times, dates, locations etc. and should be signed by the person that raised the concern or made the allegation.

Any reports or concerns regarding allegations of abuse once received by the Club Designated Person shall be recorded, signed, dated and where reasonable grounds for concern have been established shall be reported to the County Designated Person who shall inform the Statutory Authorities

Responses to and the reporting of allegations, reports or concerns of abuse to Club Designated Person, the County Designated Person, Statutory Authorities and the

Provincial & National Designated Person (as appropriate) shall be carried as soon as possible and as a matter of priority.

The Club Designated Person does not have a counselling or therapeutic role or a responsibility for investigating or validating child protection concerns within their Club or County.

12.2 Confidentiality in the processing of allegations involving children.

Confidentiality must be maintained in respect of all issues and people involved in cases of abuse, welfare or bad practice. It is important that the rights of both the child and the person about whom the complaint has been made are protected.

The following points should be kept in mind :

- A guarantee of confidentiality or undertakings regarding secrecy cannot be given, as the welfare of the child will supersede all other considerations.
- All information should be treated in a careful and sensitive manner and should be discussed only with those who need to know.
- Information should be conveyed to the parents/guardians of the child in a sensitive way.
- Discussion with the statutory authorities should take place in relation to information sharing with all parties when ongoing investigations are taking place.
- Giving information to others on a 'need to know' basis for the protection of a child is not a breach of confidentiality.

Anonymous Complaints.

Anonymous complaints can be difficult to deal with but should not be ignored. In all cases the safety and welfare of the child/children is paramount. Any such complaints relating to possible child protection concerns should be brought to the attention of the Designated Person.

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APPENDIX 1

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS GAA CLUB COACH/MENTOR CODE OF CONDUCT

All coaches/managers in Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the players with whom they work, as far as possible within the limits of their control and are committed to.

MAINTAINING A CHILD CENTRED APPROACH BY:

- Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Treating each person equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
- Being positive during coaching sessions, games and other activities so that underage players always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Recognising the development needs and capacity of all underage players, regardless of their ability, by emphasising participation for all while avoiding excessive training and competition. Skills development and personal satisfaction should have priority over competition when working with underage players.
- Developing an understanding of relevant coaching methods and ensure that they have the appropriate level of coaching accreditation.
- Not equating losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies.
- Recognising that the level of improvement made by underage players is the best indicator of effective coaching.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE BY:

- Never using foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Only entering the field of play with the Referee's permission.
- Not questioning a Referee's decisions or integrity.
- Encouraging players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials.

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- Promoting Fair Play and encourage all players and fellow officials to always play by the rules of the game.
- Not encouraging or threatening a player by deed or gesture to act in any unacceptable manner towards an opponent, fellow player or official.
- Promoting the RESPECT campaign amongst your players, fellow coaches, parents and supporters.
- Not smoking while working with underage players.
- Not consuming alcohol or non prescribed drugs immediately prior to or while underage players are in your care.
- Encouraging parents to become involved in your team and Club activities wherever possible.

WHEN WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE COACHES WILL:

- Develop an appropriate working relationship with children based on mutual trust and respect.
- Challenge Bullying in any form whether physical or emotional. Bullying is not acceptable behaviour be it from a young person, coach, parent/guardian, spectator or match official.
- Not shout at or lecture players or reprimand/ridicule them when they make a mistake. Children learn best through trial and error. Children and young people should not be afraid to risk error so as to learn.
- Use of any form of physical punishment is prohibited as is any form of physical response to misbehaviour, unless it is by way of restraint.
- Avoid incidents of horse play or role play or telling jokes etc. that could be misinterpreted.
- Never undertake any form of therapy or hypnosis, in the training of children.
- Never encourage players to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.

COACHES WILL AVOID COMPROMISING THEIR ROLE BY:

- Avoiding taking coaching sessions on your own.
- Only delivering one to one coaching, if deemed necessary, within a group setting.

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- Avoiding unnecessary physical contact with an underage player and never engage in inappropriate touching of a player.
- Being aware that any necessary contact should be determined by the age and development of the player and should only take place with the permission and understanding of the player and in an open environment in the context of developing a player's skills and abilities.

BEST PRACTICE FOR COACHES

- Ensure that all of your players are suitably and safely attired to play their chosen sport. e.g. helmets (Hurling and Camogie), goggles (Handball), shin guards, gum shields (Football).
- As a coach always be punctual and properly attired.
- Be accompanied by at least one other adult at coaching sessions, games and in underage team dressing rooms.
- Set realistic – stretching but achievable – performance goals for your players and teams.
- Keep a record of attendance at training and at games by both players and coaches.
- Rotate the team captaincy and the method used for selecting teams so that the same children are not always selected to the exclusion of others.
- Keep a record of any injuries and actions subsequently taken. Ensure that another official referee/team mentor is present when a player is being attended to and can corroborate the relevant details.
- Make adequate provision for First Aid services.
- Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured.
- Be aware of any special medical or dietary requirements of players as indicated on the medical consent/registration forms or as informed by parents/guardians.
- Ensure that all dressing rooms and the general areas that are occupied by your players and other Club personnel, prior to, during or immediately following the completion of any match are kept clean and are not damaged in any way.
- Be willing to keep the necessary and emergency medication of players in a safe and accessible place in accordance with the wishes and permission of

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the parents/guardians.

- Do not administer medication or medical aid unless you are willing to do so and have received the necessary training to administer such aid.
- Use mobile phones, if deemed appropriate, only via a group text or email system for communicating with the parents/guardians of players. Any exception to this form of group texting can only be proceeded with following permission from parents/guardians.
- Do not communicate individually by text/email with underage players.
- Do not engage in communications with underage players via social network sites.
- Encourage parents/guardians to play an active role in organising and assisting various activities for your teams and your Club.
- If it is necessary to transport a child/young person in your car, ensure that they are seated in a rear seat with seat belts securely fastened and that all drivers are adequately insured.
- With the exception of their own child a coach should not transport a child alone, except in emergency or exceptional circumstances.

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APPENDIX 2

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Castlebar Mitchels players shall at all times:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Play fairly, do your best and enjoy yourself.● Respect all of your fellow team members.● Support your fellow team members whether they do well or not.● Represent your team, your Club and your family with pride and dignity.● Respect all Coaches, Officials and their opponents.● Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.● Shake hands before and after a game● Inform your Coach/Mentor/Manager if you are unavailable for training and games.● Take care of Club equipment.● Know that you can talk to the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions you may have.● Keep to a good standard of behaviour and the Club's Code of Discipline.● Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed in any way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Never cheat – always play by the rules.● Never shout at or argue with an official, Coach or team mates or opponents and never use violence.● Never use unfair or Bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players.● Never spread rumours.● Never tell lies about adults or other young people.● Never play or train if you feel unwell or are injured.● Never use bad language or insult an opponent, a fellow player or official in any other way.● Never smoke, take alcohol or drugs not prescribed by your doctor or performance enhancing supplements
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APPENDIX 3

THE ROLE OF PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Castlebar Mitchels encourages Parents & Guardians to:

SUPPORT THEIR CHILD:

- To always play by the rules.
- To improve their skills levels.
- To appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability.
- To maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to exercise, food, rest and play..

LEAD BY EXAMPLE:

- Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games.
- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Do not exert undue pressure on your child.
- Never admonish your own child or any other child for their standard of play.
- Be realistic in their expectations.
- Show approval for effort, not just results.
- Avoid asking a child or young person, 'How much did you score today' or 'What did you win by' or 'What did you lose by.' Ask them 'Did they enjoy themselves.'
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player.
- Applaud good play from all teams.
- Do not criticise playing performances. Identify how improvements may be made.
- Do not seek to unfairly affect a game or player.
- Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited match official.

ASSIST THEIR CLUB BY:

- Showing appreciation to volunteers, coaches and Club officials.
- Attending training and games on a regular basis.
- Assisting in the organising of Club activities and events as requested.
- Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating

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each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.

- Not entering team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach (es) so as to protect the privacy of other underage players.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD:

- Complete and return the registration/permission and medical consent forms for their child's participation in the Club.
- Inform the Coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel, of any changes in their child's medical or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games or other activities.
- Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities.
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of our games including for example helmets, shin guards, gum shields etc.
- Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games.
- Never encourage your child(ren) to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.
- Listen to what their child may have to say.
- Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game.
- Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in games

PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

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

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APPENDIX 4

AWAY TRIPS PROCEDURE

PRE-TRIP PREPARATIONS:

- A detailed programme of activity should be approved in advance at Club level following agreement with the other club(s) involved in the away trip.
- Where possible a member of your organising group should be familiar with the away venue, should visit the venue if deemed necessary and ensure themselves that the venue can cater for the entire programme of activities. This is particularly relevant should an overnight stay be required.
- Parental/guardian consent must be obtained in writing so as to permit any young person under 18 yrs of age participate in any organised trip.
- Young people (of an appropriate age) and their parents/guardians should sign a form agreeing to abide by the programme and to any agreed procedures that relate to the organised trip.
- An agreed Code of Behaviour, specifically designed for the trip, should be discussed, outlined and agreed with all players and adults that are participating on the trip.
- Medical information, deemed relevant by the parents/guardians of players, should be made known to the leaders of the Club's trip and what action, if any, may be required of them in the case of an emergency. (See Appendix 1)
- Such information, including food or other related allergies should have previously been recorded on the annual/registration form of each underage club member.
- A detailed programme which includes the following should be presented to all players and their parents/guardians:
 - A time schedule of departure and arrival at your destination.
 - Full information about the trip; including all activities and events planned.
 - Emergency contact numbers during the trip and contact details for parents/guardians
 - All adults accompanying the underage team should be made aware as to what Their responsibilities are and what role(s) they may have during the trip.
- It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that the trip itself and all activities taking place throughout the trip adhere to insurance cover, that all participants are eligible members of their Association's relevant injury

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scheme and that the activities of the trip do not compromise the conditions of their injury scheme or any additional insurance policy.

- Where it is deemed necessary the organisers of all such trips should seek and gain the permission of their County Board prior to announcing the details of the programme to their members.

DURING THE TRIP

- It is essential that at least one individual with first aid qualifications be part of your organising group and that this individual be present or available throughout the trip.
- Young people must be adequately supervised throughout the trip as per our recommended ratios of adults to young people. This ratio may differ depending on the age group of participants, the activities to be undertaken, whether there is an overnight stay, if the trip is abroad etc.
- A generally acceptable ratio of 1:8, i.e. one adult per eight young people, is deemed in most instances to be a normal sports activity ratio. Organisers of club trips should always be mindful of ensuring that additional adults accompany their group in case of emergencies or unforeseen circumstances.
- There must be at least two adults of each gender with mixed groups.
- Adults are required to be familiar with the agreed rules on smoking and on the consumption of alcohol during the trip, as outlined in the GAA Code of Behaviour. As a basic minimum, adults are required to avoid smoking while working with young players and must not consume alcohol or non prescribed drugs while young players are in their care.

OVERNIGHT STAYS

HOTEL OR GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION

- Check out the proposed accommodation for children/young people and Club mentors. Ensure that it complies with health and safety regulations, is accessible, is of a suitable standard and is appropriate for the particular age group and programme of events.
- When availing of overnight accommodation adults (except parents) should not share a room with a child. If exceptional or emergency circumstances so dictate and the presence of an adult is deemed necessary there should be more than one child in the room with the adult at all times.
- Where children are sharing a room it must be with others of the same age grouping and gender.
- All children should be provided with a bed each and should not have to share a bed with another child.

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- It is also preferably that the sharing of rooms be done with fellow club members at an inter club event and that such arrangements are made known in advance of the trip to the childrens' parents.

HOME STAY ACCOMMODATION

- When availing of home stay accommodation the host club is responsible for choosing a host family that has been recommended to them and have been satisfactorily vetted in accordance with Association requirements.
- When availing of home stay accommodation adults (except parents) should not share a room with a child. If exceptional or emergency circumstances so dictate and the presence of an adult is deemed necessary there should be more than one child in the room with the adult at all times.
- When availing of home stay accommodation Children must not share a room with adults from the host family.
- All children should be provided with a bed each and should not have to share a bed with another child.
- Where children are sharing a room it must be with others of the same age grouping and gender.
- It is also preferable that the sharing of rooms be done with fellow club members at an inter club event and that such arrangements are made known in advance of the trip to the childrens' parents.

APPENDIX 5

REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS PROCEDURE

