

*Cumann Camogiochta Fanuithe na Claise*

# *Cód Iompair*



*Valley Rovers Camogie Club*

# *Code of Behaviour*

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# Valley Rovers Camogie Club

## Code of Behaviour

### Mission Statement:

Valley Rovers Camogie club – Cumann Camogíochta Fanuithe na Claise promotes Camogie to all age groups from U7s to Senior. We are fully committed to the physical, social and personal development of all our members. It is our policy to encourage active participation by all players and members in our Club, and to help them achieve their potential in a structured, safe and disciplined environment. We believe it is pivotal for our club to ensure that excellence in terms of balanced learning, behaviour, and respect is observed both on and off the pitch between player and Coach, among coaches, and spectators and Player/coach.

### Introduction:

The objective of this document is to outline in a concise and comprehensive way our Club's policies relating to the conduct of our members. It is important that all members of Valley Rovers Camogie familiarise themselves with the contents of this document.

The present and future club committees will decide to review and amend all policies to ensure that they remain in date, and be fully compliant with the National Camogie, and effective for the benefit of all our members.

### Code of Conduct Policy Statement :

Valley Rovers Camogie Club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all our members and visitors. We encourage '*best practice*' in the coaching and playing of our games. We are committed to providing an environment and ethos which will at all times show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of members and visitors.

*Best practice* is measured by:

- Mentors/ Coaches, players, parents, supporters and Club committee members setting and practicing good example through their own behaviour at training and matches and throughout our Club premises.
- The development of skills and wellbeing through the playing, coaching and promotion of our games.
- The adoption of the principles of fair play and good behaviour at all times for under 12s down embracing the go game ethos.
- The development of a positive, constructive, supportive and encouraging team and Club environment, as set out at coaching courses.
- Maximising the sense of achievement, fun and participation in order to support players and Club members in achieving their full potential and ensure their continued participation within Valley Rovers Camogie Club.
- The facility to ensure the club provides adequate training to all coaches/ Mentors from a skills and protection point of view.
- The adherence to all National Camogie rulings, both enforcing and reporting.

## **Health & Safety**

### **Shin Guards**

I acknowledge that there is no rule with the national Camogie Association, with regard to the wearing of shin guards. Our club has made it policy to recommend all our juvenile players wear shin guards at training and matches, so we are asking you to help us to ensure that health & safety is paramount at all times for your young player.

### **Jewellery**

It is a national Camogie rule that no jewellery is permitted to be worn at games & Training. We as a club are bound by this rule, and we ask for your full co-operation. We recommend that they do not arrive with jewellery, as they have no place to store it, unless accompanied by their parents. Jewellery covered by the rule includes, rings, ear Rings, ear studs, watches, necklaces, bracelets, or any other type of jewellery of any description.

### **Mobile phones**

Valley Rovers Camogie club has made it policy that no Mobile phones or any device with a camera functionality is permitted within the dressing rooms located in Brinny, the Bleach, or other clubs when away playing games. This policy covers all players of the club.

### **Mentors and Officials:**

*\* All Club mentors who work with our U18 players in all codes must comply with Garda vetting protocols.*

Valley Rovers Camogie Club recognises the key role that mentors and Club officials play in the lives and development of young players. For that reason it is vitally important that mentors lead by example displaying appropriate behaviour while representing our Club, be it at training or matches, or other club related activities. Team coaches, managers, selectors, mentors and Club officials can ensure that our sport has a beneficial impact when they adhere to the following principles.

### **Valley Rovers Camogie Club Mentors & Officials will maintain a child-centred approach and :**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and encourage the players to do likewise.
- Treat each person equally regardless of age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
- Place an emphasis on learning and practicing the skills of our games.
- Encourage and promote respecting our opponents, match officials, other coaches and supporters.
- Be positive and balanced during coaching sessions so that our player members leave with sense of well being and achievement.
- Encourage praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game.
- Have a balanced approach on winning and losing.
- Apply a long term perspective on player development.

### **Player Communications**

Coaches may not engage in direct phone conversations with, or send texts or emails to, any underage player. This also applies to any direct interactions via social media. Coaches communicate to the underage players through their parents/ guardians. Therefore it is important that coaches have relevant contact information for all parents/ guardians recorded on our registration forms.

*The level of skill improvement, enjoyment, and continued participation within our Club is the best indicator of effective coaching.*

**Valley Rovers Camogie Club Mentors & Officials should lead by example and:**

- No use foul language/gestures to any player.
- Never engage in verbal or physical confrontations with opposing mentors & players or supporters
- Do not question a referee's decisions or integrity.
- Promote Fair Play.
- Promote the RESPECT in accordance with our mission statement.

*\*To be a mentor with any team within the juvenile or adult sections of our Club, each person must be a paid up member of Valley Rovers Camogie Club. Membership fees must be paid by the 30<sup>th</sup> March. It is compulsory that they attend a child protection course, and possess a Garda vetting validation.*

**Valley Rovers Camogie Club Parents/Guardians should encourage their child to:**

- Play by the rules.
- Improve their skills levels.
- Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability.
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to exercise, food, rest and play.
- Value learning the skills of our games over winning competitive games.

**Valley Rovers Camogie Club Parents/Guardians will lead by example and :**

- Ensure that they familiarise themselves, and comply with our Club's '**Code of Behaviour**',
- Ensure that their child is familiar with key sections that are applicable to them, and that they understand what is expected from them in relation to this code.
- Respect decisions of officials and encourage children to do likewise. Never abuse the referee under any circumstances.
- Support the coaches and help out wherever necessary
- Ensure that your child is registered and paid-up on time
- Behave responsibly at games, and at training sessions.
- Be familiar with those mentors who are coaching your child
- Applaud good play from all teams and show respect to parents, mentors and players from opposing teams.
- Support your team from designated areas outlined by the coach, or by the club management.
- Inform the team manager in good time if your child is unable to attend a match.
- Ensure your child always wears a full face guard hurling helmet that is unmodified, and shin guards.
- Ensure your child does not wear any jewellery of any description for training or match.
- Always behave responsibly and not seek to unfairly affect the game or any player.

*\*(If, as a parent or guardian you have any ideas or suggestions for improvements that we can make feel free to discuss them with our Club officials at the appropriate time. We actively encourage parents to become involved in our Club and if you are interested in volunteering to become a team mentor or an administrator please approach a Club official).*

### **Underage Players:**

*\*Underage players deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse and intimidation in any form. All players are encouraged to participate in Valley Rovers Camogie Club, make friends and have fun. Participating as a Valley's Player should be a creative and positive experience in the development of each individual. Underage players have rights which must be respected, and rules that as members, they must accept.*

### **Underage players can ensure that our sport has a beneficial impact when they adhere to the following principles.**

- Treat all mentors (coaches, managers, club officials, selectors etc.) with respect.
- Be committed to fair play at all times.
- Understand the principles of the Go Games where applicable.
- Respect fellow team members and opponents at all times.
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the sport and our club into disrepute.
- Never shout or argue with officials.
- Treat each player equally regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion, background or ability.
- Do not spread rumours, or tell lies about adults or other players.
- Represent their family, Club and county with pride and dignity.
- Shake hands with their opponents after the game irrespective of the result.
- Talk to our Club's Children's Officer and/or parents/guardians if they have any problems.
- Respect Club property and the personal belongings of others and ensure that dressing rooms, playing fields, equipment and all Club facilities are not damaged in any way.
- Observe our policy on the non use of phones in our changing rooms.
- Observe the law in relation to illegal drugs and the use of alcohol and tobacco.
- Avoid loitering around the club premises so as to cause offence to any other members or the general public.
- Register with our Club on an annual basis and have their Club membership fee paid not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- Abide by the rules of the Association and Club regulations.

### **Adult Players:**

*Valley Rovers Camogie Club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its adult members. We encourage 'best practice' in the training for and playing of our games. We are committed to providing an environment and ethos which will at all times, show respect and understanding for members' rights, safety and welfare. We aim to assist our adult players in achieving their true potential by fair and ethical means. In accordance with this guiding philosophy, our sport must be drug free and played in accordance with a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship.*

### **Adult players should adhere to the following principles.**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player and treat each player equally, regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion, background or ability.
- Respect opponents, selectors, and other coaches.
- Avoid criticising match officials.
- Display leadership and good example particularly when dealing with underage members.
- Never bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player.
- Respect fellow team members - even when things go wrong.
- Respect opponents - be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game.

- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the sport and our club into disrepute.
- Accept apologies from opponents when offered.
- Do not spread rumours, or tell lies about officials or other players.
- Represent their family, Club and County with pride and dignity.
- Shake hands with their opponents before and after the game irrespective of the result.
- Adhere to proper standards of behaviour and our Club's Code of Behaviour when travelling to games.
- Let the coach/mentor know in good time when you are unavailable for training and competition.
- Respect Club property including dressing rooms, playing pitches, equipment and all other facilities. Respect the personal belongings of others also.
- Observe the club's policy on the non use of phones in any changing room.
- Observe the law in relation to illegal drugs and the use of alcohol and tobacco.
- Renew/pay their Club membership fee not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- Bring any concerns they may have in relation to Club activities to the attention of their mentors, or to the Executive Committee.

### **Members & Supporters:**

*\*Club players, in particular young players, are eager to enjoy and benefit from the support they receive from parents, guardians, friends and other members of our Club who attend our games as spectators. Active, loyal and well-behaved supporters are always welcome and encouraged to attend and support our games. They should be aware that their conduct will always reflect upon the team and upon Valley Rovers Camogie Club in general. Fellow supporters have a responsibility to ensure that all spectators conduct themselves in an acceptable and well behaved manner at all times when attending Valley Rovers Camogie games and competitions. Club members are encouraged to become involved in the workings of our Club in any capacity, where they are able – we are an entirely voluntary organisation and the more people who volunteer to assist in Club activities the stronger and more successful we will become.*

### **Valley Rovers Camogie Club Members & Supporters are encouraged to:**

- Applaud good performance and efforts from our Club's players and from opponents, regardless of the result.
- Do not condone the use of violence in any form, be it by fellow spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Encourage players to participate according to the rules of each code
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language or harassing opposing players, mentors or supporters.
- Walk away from any potential or actual confrontation and maintain dignity and discipline. (Should you become involved in any unacceptable incident during a game, ensure that our Club officials are informed immediately.)
- Respect the decisions of all officials and not engage in abusing officials from the sidelines.

- Do not enter the field of play or play area unless invited to do so by an official in charge.
- Respect Valley Rovers Camogie Club mentors, and allow team management to coach and manage game related issues.
- Renew/pay their Club membership fee no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Disciplinary Procedures \***

**( Amendment to document to include disciplinary steps)**

## **Social Media**

Mentors, coaches, players, Club members and supporters are encouraged to take part in social media however it is expected that each individual will be aware of and follow the practices which are outlined in GAA Social Media Policies & Guidelines. We can then all participate in a responsible, respectful, relevant and enjoyable manner in supporting Club activities to the positive benefit of all.

## **Drug Policy**

Our Club shall endeavour to respond to all drug related incidents in a firm and fair manner, with due responsibility for the safety and welfare of those involved, other Club members and our wider community. We undertake to fulfil any legal obligations which may apply.

The misuse or supply of drugs and illegal substances is viewed as totally unacceptable by our Club. Sanctions, as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee up to and including expulsion, shall be employed.

It is unacceptable for any Club member to present for Club duties and activities while under the influence of drugs, alcohol or other illegal substances. Our Club Executive Committee reserves the right to remove any Club member, against whom a drug related allegation is made, from participation in any Club activities. A member, against whom a drug related allegation is made, shall not be in attendance on our Club grounds and premises, until the matter is resolved in a satisfactory manner.

## **Conclusion**

I would like to encourage everyone to read understand the key messages outlined above, and seek further clarification on any area identified, to protect the lives of all our players, coaches, guardians, spectators, and opponents.

Using these guidelines every day will ensure this game is respectful, enjoyable, progressive, and popular within our parish.

I want to thank all our coaches for dedicating their free time, to working with all our players, and I wish all players, coaches every success in the coming years.

I want to thank Mark Ronan for co-writing and co-editing this document, and it is an open document that will be reviewed and amended in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Leo Flynn

Valley Rovers Camogie Chairperson.

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016



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