

BALLYGARRETT RÉALT NA MARA GAA CLUB

Mentors Code of Conduct and Best Practice

BALLYGARRETT RÉALT NA MARA recognises the key role mentors play in the lives and development of young players.

Team Coaches, Managers, and Mentors can ensure that our sport has a beneficial impact when they adhere to the following principles;

TREATMENT OF PLAYERS:

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.

- Treat each person equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
- Be positive during coaching sessions, games and other activities so that young players always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Recognise the development needs and capacity of all young 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.
- Develop an understanding of relevant coaching methods and have an appropriate level of coaching accreditation.
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors, and other coaches, and avoid criticism of mentors and officials.
- Do not equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies.
- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game, *Praise the effort*.
- Do not use any form of physical force or verbal punishment.
- Do not use foul or provocative language.
- Ensure that personnel connected with the team do not speak to another person in a manner that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults.

SAFETY & PROTECTION

- Avoid working alone with children at all times. At least TWO adults must be in attendance with each squad/team at all times for all activities (training and matches). It is considered best practice to have at least one female Mentor present along with the Manager/Coach while working with Camogie and Ladies Football underage players. If this is not possible, the activity should be cancelled. (It is important to realise that this is essential for player safety and child protection, and also for the protection of Mentors from any misinterpretation or misreporting of actions, and from unfair or malicious accusations.)

- Make adequate provision for First Aid and do not allow players to perform while injured.
- Do not administer medication or medical aid unless you are willing to do so and have received the necessary training to administer such aid.
- 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.
- Be responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a *working* relationship and *friendship* with players. It is advisable for coaches not to involve young players in their personal life i.e. visits to coaches home or overnight stays.
- If overnight stays are required for matches or trips, players and mentors must observe and sign a separate agreement in accordance with club regulations. For juvenile members, parents must also sign permission forms. No child should be allowed to travel without such a form.
- The use of cameras, videos, camera-phones is ***Strictly Prohibited*** in changing rooms. The inappropriate use of images of underage players must be reported.
- Texts, e-mails, memos and phone calls for players from Minor level and below, must always be communicated through parents/guardians as a Group.
- Do not communicate individually by text/email with underage players.
- Do not engage in communications with underage players via social network sites.
- Keep a record of attendance at training and at games by both players and coaches.
- The nature of the relationship between mentors and players is based on trust and confidence. Occasionally, mentors may acquire information of a confidential nature about their players. This information must remain confidential and *except* where abuse is suspected, must not be divulged to a third party.
- Parents should always be informed immediately when problems arise with young players *except* in situations where informing parents may put the player at risk. In such a situation the relevant Club Child Officer(s) should be contacted immediately.

COACHING, COMPETITION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Only enter the field of play with the referee's permission.
- Do not question a referee's decisions or integrity.
- Encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials.
- Promote Fair Play.
- Promote the RESPECT campaign.
- Do not smoke while working with underage players.
- Do not consume alcohol or non prescribed drugs immediately prior to or while young players are in your care.
- Encourage parents to become involved in your team and Club activities wherever possible.
- Insist that players under your care respect the rules of the game. Insist *on fair play* and ensure players are aware that you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.
- Set realistic (challenging but achievable goals) performance goals.
- Be punctual, properly attired, and lead by example.
- Ensure that games, activities and playing equipment are customised to suit the needs of those involved in terms of age, ability, experience and maturity.

- Ensure players are suitably attired and officially registered with club.
- Ensure that all dressing rooms, facilities and areas occupied/used by the team (whether at home or away) are not abused or damaged in any way.
- Ensure players remain on the field or in the hall for collection after Training/Matches.
The Car Park is not a Playground
- Set an example, and obey the 15km Speed Limit Within the Club Grounds

KEY PRINCIPLES/ REQUIREMENTS OF MENTORS

- Mentors, coaches, selectors and all those associated with Ballygarrett Réalt na Mara GAA, must work within the rules and guidelines laid down in the club's '*Code of Conduct and Best Practice*'.
- Each Mentor must familiarise themselves fully with the most updated '*Code of Conduct and Best Practice*' and must verify that they have read and will abide by it at the beginning of each season, or on taking up mentoring duties during the season.
- Mentors must also ensure each year (or on joining the club during the year) that all parents of young players are familiar with the full Code of Conduct, and that young players are made familiar with the young players section of the code.
- Mentors, Coaches and Selectors must take and adhere to instruction and guidance from the Club management in relation to coaching, best practice, and administration of club affairs, and must abide by the decisions of club officers, particularly in the event of any disagreement or dispute.

Remember that young players play for fun, and enjoyment, and that skill development, and personal satisfaction have priority over highly structured competition.

BALLYGARRETT RÉALT NA MARA GAA RECRUITMENT OF COACHES

All coaches working with young people and children are required to be suitable for their chosen role(s), and should be appropriately trained, qualified and supported to fulfil such roles. All persons working or volunteering for such roles will participate in agreed recruitment and selection procedures and shall attend coaching and training courses relevant to their roles.

All Mentors/ Selectors or any Adult who wish to work with underage players with Ballygarrett Réalt na Mara GAA, must acquire the minimum as following

- Garda Vetting
- Child Protection