



# St. Joseph's GAA Club, Ballycran

## Respect Policy

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# Respect Policy

**Give Respect – Get Respect** is an awareness campaign that seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner and where Players, Coaches, Spectators and Referees 'Give Respect – Get Respect' from each other.

The respect campaign applies at all levels and amongst all players regardless of age, competition or ability. The key participants in the Give Respect – Get Respect campaign are not just the Players themselves but Coaches, Clubs, Parents, Referees and Supporters.

## **THE RESPECT CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS THE FOLLOWING GOOD PRACTICES:**

- All players and coaches shake hands with their opponents and the referee before and after each game.
- Referees communicate decisions to players in an effective manner.
- A merit award - based on sporting endeavor and fair play – is awarded to players/teams at the end of each season/blitz.
- A line of cones/tape should mark out a designated spectator's area (non-segregated) two meters from the playing area.
- Supporters remain in designated areas at the side of the pitch for the full duration of each game.
- Team coaches (a maximum of five) should wear designated bibs and are the only personnel allowed along the sidelines area.
- All categories must strive to achieve maximum participation for all players.
- Referees are to be welcomed to the GAA Club.
- Clubs should endeavor to offer participants the opportunity to socialise after the game through providing snacks and light refreshments where possible.

## **COACHES**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat each one equally regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religious belief.
- Develop an understanding of the GAA Out Coaching Model and use this to design game based training programmes.
- Set realistic goals, lead by example and emphasise the basic skills of the game.
- Use a “fun at all costs” approach rather than “win at all costs”.
- Do not question the referee’s integrity or allow him/her to be subjected to unsporting language or behavior.
- Ensure maximum participation for all players.
- Ensure that injured players are not encouraged or forced to play.

## **PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND SPECTATORS**

- Respect officials’ decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Appreciate everybody on the team regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious belief.
- Show approval for effort, not just results.
- Don’t force players to live or act out the ambitions or expectations of others.
- Safeguard your child’s well-being by ensuring that he/she plays within their own age group.
- Command team mentors and match officials on a regular basis.
- Relay genuine concerns and ensure that these are processed properly.
- Remain in designated spectator areas for the full duration of the game.

## **PLAYERS**

- Respect their club and fellow players both on and off the pitch (including refraining from derogatory comments on social media).
- Respect fellow players regardless of ability, age, cultural or

- ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious belief.
- Respect all coaches, mentors and officials.
  - Play by the rules and take responsibility for one's own behaviour.
  - Always concentrate on playing the ball.
  - Accept decisions of match officials and do not use foul language or behave in an unsporting manner.
  - The captain will always model good behaviour.
  - Shake hands with all opponents and the referee after each game regardless of the result.

## **CLUBS**

- Select a designated representative for each team to oversee the GAA Respect Initiative.
- Adopt the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and joint Code of Behaviour as a basic level agreement between the club and players, coaches, parents, guardians and supporters.
- Welcome referees to the club for each game.
- Implement a player - centered and achievement – oriented programme of games.
- Promote fair play through the provision of “merit awards” based on sportsmanship.
- Set out integrated training and playing schedules.
- Seek and accept feedback from young players. Ask “What is your favourite thing about playing Gaelic Games?” “What five things would make training and games more fun?”

## **REFEREES**

- Apply the playing rules on an impartial and consistent basis.
- Communicate decisions to players and team officials in an effective manner.
- Deal with dissent firmly and fairly.
- Work as a team with other match officials.
- Maintain composure regardless of the circumstances.
- Use assessments to improve performance and achieve excellence.

## **MANAGING PLAYERS**

The referee will work with the captain and coaches to manage all

games effectively. Referees will control a game by applying the rules and by dealing effectively with any instances of dissent. In the event of a player behaving in an unsporting manner or using foul language it is recommended that:

1. A free is awarded to the opposition and the player is informed that he/she will be asked to leave the game in the event of repeat behaviour.
2. In the event of repeated behaviour, the referee instructs the coach to replace the offending player and the game is recommenced after this.

### **MANAGING THE SIDELINE**

In the event of a person – other than a player – behaving in an unsporting manner or using foul language it is recommended that:

1. The matter is brought to the attention of the designated team representative.
2. The representative reminds the person concerned of his/her responsibilities.
3. Where the behaviour continues, the game may be terminated.
4. The referee provides a full report to the committee with responsibility for the fixture.

### **A CHECKLIST FOR BEHAVIOUR**

- **RESPONSIBLE**
- **ENCOURAGING**
- **SUPPORTIVE**
- **POSITIVE**
- **ENABLING**
- **CONSIDERATE**
- **TOLERANT**