



Coill Dubh Association Football Club

Code of Conduct Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the expectations, responsibilities, and standards for all members of Coill Dubh A.F.C., including players, parents, guardians, and volunteers. The club is committed to fostering an environment of respect, fairness, and integrity.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all members of Coill Dubh A.F.C., including:

- Youth players
- Senior players
- Parents and guardians
- Volunteers (coaches, managers, committee members, and operational staff)

This Code of Conduct should be read in conjunction with the club's **Complaints, Grievances & Discipline Policy**

3. Policy Statement

Coill Dubh A.F.C. is committed to fostering a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment for all players, parents, guardians, and volunteers. The club upholds the highest standards of integrity, sportsmanship, and fairness in all its activities. This Code of Conduct ensures that all members of the club understand and adhere to the values that promote a safe, enjoyable, and supportive footballing experience. Any breaches of this policy will be addressed in line with the club's disciplinary procedures to maintain the integrity and reputation of Coill Dubh A.F.C.



4. Bringing the Club into Disrepute

All members of Coill Dubh A.F.C., including players, parents, guardians, and volunteers, have a duty to uphold the good name and reputation of the club. Any behaviour that brings the club into disrepute, whether through actions on or off the pitch, in person, or via social media, will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action.

a) Examples of Bringing the Club into Disrepute:

1. Publicly criticising the club, its members, or officials in a defamatory manner.
2. Posting offensive or inappropriate content related to the club on social media.
3. Engaging in abusive, violent, or discriminatory behaviour that reflects poorly on the club.
4. Failing to adhere to club policies and procedures.
5. Engaging in criminal or unethical behaviour that negatively impacts the club's reputation.

b) Consequences:

Any member found to have brought the club into disrepute will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the **Complaints, Grievances & Discipline Policy**. For details on specific disciplinary measures, refer to **Section 9 - Consequences of Breaching the Code of Conduct**.



5. Youth Player Code of Conduct

a) Expectations:

1. Be enthusiastic, willing to learn, and always strive to improve your skills and understanding of the game.
2. Show respect for teammates, coaches, committee members, opponents, and officials always. Unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.
3. Represent your team, the Club, and your family with pride and dignity.
4. Respect the decisions of match officials and always shake hands with referees and opponents at the end of every match.
5. Support and encourage fellow team members in all situations.
6. Listen and comply with all reasonable instructions given by your coach or a committee member.
7. Wear the correct club gear and bring the necessary equipment to all training sessions and matches.
8. Arrive on time for training sessions and matches. If unable to attend, inform your coach as early as possible.
9. Assist coaches with equipment before and after matches and training sessions and respect club equipment.
10. If you have any concerns or questions, talk to a Coach, the Club, or the Child Welfare Officer.
11. Above all, enjoy playing and training for Coill Dubh A.F.C.

6. Parent & Guardian Code of Conduct

a) Expectations:

1. Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring their children are supervised during training sessions and matches, and that they always behave appropriately.
2. Set a positive example by showing respect for coaches, committee members, opponents, and officials at all times.
3. Support and appreciate volunteer coaches, officials, and committee members—without them, your child could not participate.
4. Maintain realistic expectations of your child. Avoid putting them under undue pressure, accept disappointment, and praise good work.
5. Respect the coaches' decisions and leave coaching to the designated professionals. All football-related decisions made by the coach are final.
6. Ensure membership fees are paid in full before the start of the season and that matchday and training fees (subs) are paid on time.
7. Support club fundraising activities where possible.
8. Ensure your child arrives on time for training and matches and has safe arrangements for getting home afterward.



7. Senior Player Code of Conduct

a) Expectations:

1. Maintain a positive attitude, be committed to continuous improvement, and contribute to a supportive team environment.
2. Show respect for teammates, coaches, committee members, opponents, and officials always.
3. Represent your team, the Club, and your family with pride and dignity.
4. Listen and comply with all reasonable instructions given by your coach or a committee member.
5. Wear the correct club gear and equipment.
6. Arrive on time for training and matches. If unable to attend, inform your manager as soon as possible.
7. Pay membership fees in full before the start of the season and ensure matchday and training fees are paid on time.
8. Alcohol and drugs are strictly prohibited within the club. Players must not attend training or matches under the influence.
9. Support and participate in club fundraising activities.
10. Inform your manager as soon as possible if you are injured or unwell.
11. Assist coaches with equipment before and after matches and training sessions.
12. Above all, enjoy playing and training for Coill Dubh A.F.C.

8. Volunteer Code of Conduct

a) Expectations:

1. Act as a role model by displaying good sportsmanship, respect, and fairness always.
2. Treat all players, parents, coaches, officials, and committee members with dignity and respect.
3. Recruitment Adhere to all club policies and procedures, including safeguarding and child protection policies.
4. Always maintain appropriate boundaries with players and parents.
5. Communicate professionally and respectfully with players, parents, and fellow volunteers.
6. Ensure that players' welfare and enjoyment remain a top priority.
7. Commit to personal development by staying informed about club policies, safety protocols, and coaching techniques.
8. Report any concerns about welfare or safety to the Child Welfare Officer immediately.
9. Encourage inclusivity and ensure all players have equal opportunities to participate.
10. Assist in club activities, including fundraising and events, whenever possible.



9. Consequences of Breaching the Code of Conduct:

By participating with Coill Dubh A.F.C., you agree to abide by the terms detailed in this Code of Conduct. A breach of the Code of Conduct will result in referral to the Executive Committee as outlined in the **Complaints, Grievances & Discipline Policy** and may be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary measures:

1. Verbal Warning.
2. Written Warning.
3. Additional training or mediation where necessary.
4. Disciplinary hearing.
5. Temporary suspension.
6. Suspension of club supports, including the ability to register players or participate in competitions.
7. Permanent expulsion from the club.

10. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure continued compliance with best practices. Any changes to the policy will be communicated to all members.

11. Approval and Implementation

- I. This policy was approved by the Committee of Coill Dubh A.F.C. on **17/02/2025**
- II. The policy is effective as of **17/02/2025**



12. Signatories

Prepared by:

Signed: G Smith Date: **17/02/2025**

George Smith, Club Secretary

Checked by:

Signed: P Cooney Date: **17/02/2025**

Phil Cooney, Facilities Officer

Authorised by:

Signed: P O'Sullivan Date: **17/02/2025**

Paudie O'Sullivan, Honorary Life President

Date of next review: 1st December 2026