



## Fulham Irish GAA Club – Behaviour Code for Young Players



 <b>Fulham Irish Code of Behaviour</b> <b>Nursery</b> 	 <b>Fulham Irish Code of Behaviour</b> <b>u7 to u9</b> 	 <b>Fulham Irish Code of Behaviour</b> <b>u11+</b> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Be Yourself</b></li> <li>• <b>Be Kind and Caring</b></li> <li>• <b>Be Honest and Respectful</b></li> <li>• <b>Try Your Best</b></li> <li>• <b>Have Fun</b></li> </ul> <p><b>If you are ever worried, talk to someone. The coaches, parents and helpers are here to support you.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Be Yourself</b></li> <li>• <b>Play Fairly</b></li> <li>• <b>Try Your Best</b></li> <li>• <b>Listen to your Coach</b></li> <li>• <b>Respect the Referee and Other Team</b></li> <li>• <b>Take care of the equipment and the space we play in</b></li> <li>• <b>Have Fun</b></li> </ul> <p><b>If you are ever worried, talk to someone. The coaches, parents and helpers are here to support you.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Be Yourself and Be Accepting of Others</b></li> <li>• <b>Play Fairly and Have Fun</b></li> <li>• <b>Try Your Best and Encourage Others</b></li> <li>• <b>Listen to your Coach</b></li> <li>• <b>Respect the Referee and Other Team</b></li> <li>• <b>Take Care of the Equipment and the Space</b></li> <li>• <b>Represent your Team, Club and Family with Pride when you play for Fulham Irish</b></li> <li>• <b>Bullying is Not Tolerated at Fulham Irish</b></li> <li>• <b>Speak Up if You Think Something Isn't Right</b></li> </ul> <p><b>If you are ever worried, talk to someone. The coaches, parents and helpers are here to support you.</b></p>

### 1. WHY WE HAVE A BEHAVIOUR CODE:

Fulham Irish and all the clubs that participate in Gaelic Games do so on a voluntary basis, from the players and coaches to the parents, guardians, supporters, administrators and all the other helpers that allow our clubs to exist. We do this because we enjoy the sport but also because we know that lifelong friendships and a permanent community are created when people come together in a team setting to achieve a shared ambition. For it to succeed, though, requires everyone to agree and understand what is expected of them and what they can expect from others when they are a member of Fulham Irish.

This code of behaviour is there to make sure everyone knows what is required of them and that everyone feels safe, respected and valued within the club. We expect all members of the club and people who participate occasionally in Fulham Irish activities to display appropriate behaviour at all times, including behaviour that takes place outside our club.

If you are unsure about anything in this code and what it means or how it applies to you, speak with a parent, guardian, one of the coaches or the club Children's Officer who will answer any questions you have.

Our aim is to ensure that young people and children who play our games receive the best possible care, attention and protection while participating in our Gaelic Games.

The safeguarding of our members will always be a key priority as we recognise that the welfare of the child is of paramount importance in our club.

Any player under 18 years of age is considered a child; therefore their parents and guardians have a responsibility to engage with this behaviour code and also the separate behaviour code for parents, guardians and supporters.

### 2. THE FULHAM IRISH BEHAVIOUR CODE FOR YOUNG PLAYERS

#### A. YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO:

- Be safe and feel safe.
- Have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment.
- Be treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Participate in games and competitions at age-appropriate levels in which they feel comfortable.
- Be afforded meaningful playing time to assist in the development of their skills.
- Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- Be protected from abuse.
- Be listened to and have their suggestions heard in a constructive manner.

#### B. YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ALWAYS:

- Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves.
- Respect fellow team members and opponents regardless of ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.
- Support fellow team members regardless of whether they do well or not.
- Represent their team, their Club and their family with pride and dignity.
- Respect all coaches, their opponents and the decisions of officials.
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- Shake hands before and after a game irrespective of the result.
- Inform their coach/mentor/manager in advance if they are unavailable for training and games.
- Take due care of club equipment and the spaces where training and matches take place.
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to a coach or the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions they may have.
- Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed or bullied in any way.

**C. YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ENGAGE IN GOOD PRACTICE:**

- Never cheat – always play by the rules.
- Never shout at or argue with a game's official, coach, team-mate, opponent or supporters.
- Never use violence towards team-mates, coaches, officials, opponents, or supporters.
- Accept the decisions of referees and other officials.
- 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 unacceptable language or racial, sectarian, homophobic or other discriminatory references towards a team-mate, opponent, coach, official or supporter by words, deeds, or gestures.
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to exercise, food, rest and play. Advice may be sought if necessary from Club officials on this issue.
- Never consume non-prescribed drugs or performance enhancing supplements.
- Never use social media to discuss team-mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or other individuals.
- Never use social media or social media apps to distribute or redistribute offensive content or to taunt, bully or racially abuse others.

D. The GAA Code of Behaviour has a section covering YOUNG PLAYERS ON ADULT TEAMS. This is omitted from the Fulham Irish Code of Behaviour for now but will be added at the relevant time in the future.

### **3. WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A BREACH OF THE CODE?**

This code of behaviour is part of our process for making sure everyone who takes part in our activities gets the support they need. Alleged breaches of the code may need to be enquired into. Following any such enquiry, and where deemed necessary, sanctions or disciplinary action may be taken against those who admit or who have been proven to have breached the code.

If an alleged breach of the code is reported, the relevant Children's Officer (depending on whether the report is made at club, county, provincial level, etc) will consider the allegation and establish the facts and the context.

Certain breaches of the code may be dealt with in an informal manner. In such cases the relevant Children's Officer will be responsible for dealing with the alleged breach informally and agreeing the procedure to be followed with the parties. This could involve meeting with the person(s) against whom an allegation has been made and resolving the matter amicably and by agreement. If the matter is resolved informally, the relevant Children's Officer will note the outcome in writing.

In the event that the Children's Officer or any party to the allegation objects to the matter being dealt with informally, the Children's Officer shall refer the allegation to the appropriate authority or committee to be dealt with in accordance with the formal procedure set out in the [GAA's child safeguarding policy and code of behaviour](#).