



Fulham Irish GAA Club



Behaviour Code for Parents, Guardians and Supporters



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.

In common with coaches and club personnel, the parents/guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children and are encouraged to attend their child's training activities and games.

If you are unsure about what anything in this code means or how it applies to you, speak with the Club Children's Officer, one of the Committee, or one of the coaches 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.

2. THE FULHAM IRISH BEHAVIOUR CODE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND SUPPORTERS

A. PARENTS AND GUARDIANS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILD TO:

- Always play by the rules.

- Improve their skills levels.
- Appreciate everybody on their team and their opponents, regardless of ability.
- Respect and appreciate the contribution made by their coaches towards developing players and teams.
- 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.

B. PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND SUPPORTERS SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE:

- Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games.
- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Do not exert undue pressure on your child.
- Never admonish or criticise any child, including your own, for their standard of play.
- Be realistic in their expectations.
- Show approval for effort, not just results.
- Avoid asking a child or young person, 'How much did you score today' or 'What did you win by' or 'What did you lose by.' Ask them 'Did they enjoy themselves.'
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player.
- Applaud good play from all teams.
- Show respect to your Club's opponents. Without them there would be no games or competitions.
- Do not seek to unfairly affect a game or player.
- Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge
- Do not enter team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach(es) so as to protect the privacy of all players.
- Never engage in the use of violence.
- Never act in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive
- 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.
- Never communicate by text, email or via social network sites and/or apps with any underage players other than their own children.
- Never develop inappropriate relationships with children and young people or engage in behaviour that is in any way, or could be perceived to be, abusive.

C. PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD:

- Complete through Foireann the annual registration, medical consent and photo & communication consent information for their child's participation in the Club.
- Inform the coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel, of any changes in their child's medical or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games or other activities.
- Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities.
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of our games including for example helmets, gum shields etc.
- Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- Never encourage their child to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.
- Listen to what their child may have to say. Sudden changes in behaviour could indicate something bigger is going on.
- Take the time to talk to their child about what they want to achieve while taking part in club activities.
- Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game.
- Let your child know you are proud of them.

- Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in games.
- Raise any issues or concerns they may have regarding their child's participation or performance in a team directly with the team coach(es) and do so in a constructive and nonconfrontational manner and not in the company or vicinity of young players or other parents.
- If deemed necessary, bring complaints about the conduct or practice of a coach to the attention of the relevant Club or County Children's Officer.
- Support your Club by becoming an active member and by participating in Club activities.
- Assist in the organising of Club activities and events as requested / able to.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person by treating each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
- Be familiar with the Code of Behaviour for Young Players and also ensure that Young Players are applying the Code at all times.

D. PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Know their child is safe and to make a complaint if they believe that their child's safety is in any way compromised.
- Be informed of problems/concerns relating to their child.
- Be informed if their child gets injured or becomes unwell.
- Complain to the relevant persons if they have concerns about the standard of coaching.
- Have, as a member, a say in relation to decisions being made within the Club.

3. What happens if I do not to follow the code of behaviour?

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.

In some circumstances, the club may be obliged to notify relevant authorities outside of the GAA such as the police and/or social services.

Please refer to our '[Safeguarding Procedures & Reporting of Concerns](#)' page for further information on how to report a complaint and information on organisations outside of the club to whom a complaint can be made if necessary.

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 of the allegation.

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](#).