The personal dignity and physical integrity of a young person is of upmost importance in sport and their participation in sport should provide them with a period in their life which enables them to have fun, make friends and present them with an opportunity to improve their levels of skill in sport.

Visit Us Online:

www.bishopstowngaa.com

– Contents –

Child Protection Policy Statement
Working/Playing Practices
Codes of Behaviour For Coaches/Team Members
Codes Of Behaviour For Children
Codes Of Behavious For Parents/Guardians

Bishopstown GAA Club

Child Protection Policy And Code of Conduct

1. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

Children are the most important members in our club.

"Cumann Lúthchleas Gael believes that a youth centred approach should be adopted by everyone involved in the promotion and development of Gaelic games at underage level. The greater the sense of achievement, fun and fair play that young people experience when participating in Gaelic games, the more they will enjoy their involvement and strive to develop their True Potential"

We at **Bishopstown GAA Club** aim to promote the participation of children in our club by creating a culture of safety and fun.
"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them"
(Article 19 : UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)
All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. Ireland has adopted and is committed to the European Code of Sport *Ethics which defines fair play as: "much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption."*
(European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993)

The Children Order (1995) is based on a clear and consistent set of principles designed with the common aim of promoting the welfare of children.
Children have the right to be safe. All coaches should ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedent over all other considerations. All club members, through their actions reflect the principles and guidelines contained in the 'Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland.' We promote the aims and ideals of our Association, adhere to its policy and nurture our Gaelic culture.

STANDARDS SET BY BISHOPSTOWN JUNVENILE CLUB WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ENSURING THE FOLLOWING:-

- Awareness of the issues which lead to children being harmed
- Safe recruiting procedures for coaches/volunteers, careful selection
- Provision of Child Protection awareness workshops for coaches and administrators
- Application of codes of behaviour for coaches/volunteers
- Application of codes of behaviour for children/young people
- Application of codes of behaviour for parents
- Application of good and safe working/playing practices
- Establishment of procedures for dealing with/recording of complaints/accidents, report books detailing facts, witnesses, circumstances etc.
- Procedures relating specifically to bullying, away trips and photography
- Identification and maintenance of parental responsibility
- Availability of information
- Regular review and monitoring of Child Protection procedures by the management committee
- All children are treated equally

The policy applies to all those involved in **Bishopstown Juvenile GAA Club** as coaches, administrators, officials, volunteer drivers, parents/guardians and children.

DESIGNATED PERSON
(with respect to Child Protection)
The 'contact person' or Designated Person within **BISHOPSTOWN Juvenile GAA Club** is the club chairperson.
Name of designated person shall be made known to all in the club. He/she is the person to whom child protection concerns will be addressed. If the concern is about the designated person, please report to the County Chairman.
The club has procedures in place for dealing with concerns or allegation of abuse either within the club or externally but the first point of contact for the child, parent/guardian or coach is the designated person. However, any individual has the right to contact Social Services or Garda directly if they have concern about a child's welfare.

GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ACCIDENTS
In the event of an accident the following procedure will be followed:
Contact parents/guardians in the event of all accidents.
Fill in 2 copies of the Accident Form for ALL accidents. One copy to incident book, other to the Secretary for filing/further action

For more serious accidents:

- Contact emergency services/G.P. if necessary
- Record detailed facts surrounding accident, witnesses etc.
- Complete accident form/book as above
- All serious accidents should be reported through County Secretary to Croke Park

GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ALLEGATIONS/INCIDENTS

- Record all incidents reported or observed on an incident form, forward to the designated person (club chairperson).
- Ensure confidentiality – a 'need to know basis'
- The designated person is responsible for report security
- Adhere to An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael's Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (3rd Edition - April 2005)

2. WORKING/PLAYING PRACTICES

BISHOPSTOWN Juvenile GAA Club will ensure:

- Promotion of a healthy lifestyle by practice and example
- Proper supervision of children within the club with adequate numerical and gender, coach : child ratio.
- Use of safe recommended equipment including:
  Goals, Cones, Flags, Balls, First Aid kits, Buses, Hurdles
- Supervision of equipment used.
- A clearly defined, fenced play area that is safe from vehicular traffic
- Public Liability insurance covering all members of the club
- Only children of similar age will train/play together, no children training/competing with
  children two or more age groups older than their own age group
- First aid assistance and first aid equipment is available in case of accident, with accident/incident books documented where necessary
- N.B. All accidents will be reported to parents/guardians
- Where Transport is provided, it will be in the form of Buses or supervised by volunteers in possession of driving licences and roadworthy vehicles only. Prior parental permission is essential as per registration form
- A safe environment for members
- Ongoing training and information for Leaders
- Implementation of policy and procedures in line with guidance from Our Duty to Care and Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport
- Facilitation of open discussion on member protection issues
- Support to members who report allegations of abuse
- Suspected abuse information is treated confidentially
- Appropriate action is taken if members breach standards of reasonable behaviour
- The establishment and maintenance of a coaching register
- The setting of standards of good practice
- The Designated Officer has knowledge of child protection procedures and responsibility in reporting concerns
- That parents/guardians are kept informed and have access to the club's policy guidelines for away trips/overnight stays and use of photography/videos
- The implementation of good and safe working practice is developed to the mutual benefit of the member, local area and community

BISHOPSTOWN Juvenile GAA Club has the right to:

- Expect leaders to comply with its Code of Conduct
- Expect all children to maintain standards of reasonable behaviour
- Take appropriate action if members breach the Code of Conduct or Child Protection Policy
- Expect all members to undertake appropriate training when advised to
- Expect leaders will not abuse children physically, emotionally or sexually

3. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR COACHES/ TEAM MENTORS

- Take appropriate action in the event of accusations
- Maintain records on individuals in line with advice from data protection agency, i.e. only
  hold records on individuals that they have justifiable reason for holding
- Adhere to An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael's Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (3rd Edition - April 2005) and An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael's Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport (December 2009)

Coaches/Team Mentors are expected to:

- Enjoy their GAA activity
- Be positive during coaching sessions so that participants always leave with a sense of
  achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Plan and prepare appropriately for each session and ensure proper levels of supervision.
- Be punctual, properly attired, lead by example, avoid smoking or the consumption of alcohol in the presence of young people.
- Don't shout at or lecture players or reprimand /ridicule them when they make a mistake.
  (Children learn best through trial and error. They should not be afraid to risk error to learn).. .
- Set realistic – stretching but achievable – performance goals. Praise and reinforce effort
  /commitment and provide positive feedback..
- Recognise the development needs of young players (avoid excessive training or competition) and ensure that they are matched on individual or team basis.
- Rotate the team captain and the method used for selecting teams so that the same children are not always last to be selected.
- Ensure games, activities and playing equipment are customised to suit the needs of those involved in terms of age, ability, experience and maturity.
- Avoid over coaching i.e., insisting upon set (stereotyped) playing patterns where individual decision-making and creativity are stifled or where young people are confined to playing in set positions on a continuous basis.
- Don't equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies. (The level of improvement made by young players is the best indicator of Coaching Effectiveness).
- Encourage parents/guardians to play an active role in organizing activities and to draft a Code of Discipline for everyone involved.
- Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force.
- Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official. (The Coach should only enter the field with the referee's permission and should not question their decisions
  or integrity).
- It's important to recognise that certain situations e.g. horse play/role play/telling jokes etc – could be misinterpreted and lead to allegations of serious misconduct or impropriety.
- Avoid any inappropriate touching when assisting players to perform a technique or when First Aid is being administered.
- Do not take coaching sessions on our own.

4. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR CHILDREN

Children are expected to:

- Enjoy their GAA activity
- Keep within the defined area of the playing/coaching area
- Behave acceptably and listen to the coach
- Respect GAA personnel and equipment
- Refrain from using bad language and racial references
- Refrain from bullying and rough/dangerous play
- Respect other children and adults
- Keep safe
- Report inappropriate behaviour and risky situations
- Play fairly
- Respect officials and accept decisions
- Show appropriate loyalty and be gracious in defeat
- Respect opponents and team mates
- Not cheat
- Not use violence

Children have the right to:

- Safety
- Be listened to
- Respect
- Privacy
- Enjoyment of sport in a safe environment
- Referral to professional help if necessary
- Protection from abuse
- Equality and fair involvement
- Experience competition and a healthy desire to win
- Be believed
- Ask for help

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with by the immediate coaches and reported to the designated person where deemed necessary. Persistent misbehaviour will result in dismissal from the club. Parents/guardians will be informed.
Dismissal can be appealed with final decisions taken by the club committee.

5. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/Guardians are expected to:
Complete and return club registration form for **BISHOPSTOWN Juvenile GAA Club**

- Deliver and collect children punctually
- Ensure child is properly attired for weather conditions
- Ensure proper kit is worn at all times
- Detail any health concerns pertaining to the child on the consent/registration form, particularly respiratory problems, allergies. Any health concerns should be notified to the
  coach before a match/training
- Inform the coach beforehand if the child is to be collected early
- Encourage the child to play to his/her best, fairly
- Show approval for effort – not just results
- Show good example
- Encourage all children's efforts, listen and be positive
- Behave responsibly on sidelines
- Appreciate and respect the coach
- Be realistic
- Ensure child's hygiene and nutritional requirements are met
- Promote child's participation for fun

Parents/Guardians have the right to:

- Know the child is safe
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to the child
- Be informed if the child is injured
- Have consent sought for issues such as trips
- Contribute to decisions within the club
- Complain if there is concern about the standard of coaching

Any misdemeanour or breach of this code of conduct will be dealt with individually by a club official. Persistent misbehaviour will result in the parent/guardian being asked not to attend if their presence is detrimental to child welfare.
The ultimate action would be regrettably asking the child to leave the club.

REGISTRATION CLUB YOUTH MEMBERSHIP FORM

BISHOPSTOWN Juvenile GAA Club

Name of Youth Member: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone number: (home) .....

(mobile) .....

Contact name: .....

Contact adress: .....
(if different from above)

Telephone number: .....
(if different from above)

Consent for photographing/video-taking
Occasions will arise where photographs/videos may be taken of children involved in GAA activity. If this is a cause for concern, please state so here and contact the club's Designated Person as per the Child Protection policy.

Consent for away trips
I realise that GAA activity with our club will involve away trips and I consent to my child taking part in these visits. I acknowledge that the Club will be liable in the event of any accident only if it fails to take reasonable steps in its duty of care for my child during the trip. I understand that the Club has a common law duty to act in the capacity of a reasonably prudent parent/guardian.

If there is anything that mentors or people in contact with your child should be aware of when the child is involved in GAA activity, e.g. hearing difficulty, allergy, medical condition or other relevant information, please state so here:

I am aware that the above GAA Club has implemented a Child Protection Policy which is designed to protect Children and all others who join the club.
I have been supplied with a copy of the Club's Child Protection Policy and agree with what is expected by and from the club.
I commit to assisting the Club in any way I can with regard to the promotion and development of GAA activity and the implementation of its Child Protection Policy.

Signature of Youth Member .....

Signature of Parent/guardian .....

Date: .....

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Acknowledgement of receipt of registration
Received on / / (date) and assessed for further action by:

Signature .....

Position in club/rúnaí .....