



Milltown-Castlemaine GAA Club

Participant Code of Conduct

GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT

GAA CODE OF CONDUCT OVERVIEW

The Code of Conduct (“the Code”) sets out the basic principles that establish standards of behaviour for all who attend our events or participate in the GAA (“GAA Participants”). The Code forms part of the Official Guide (“OG”, which is available on the GAA website - <https://www.gaa.ie>) Rule 1.14, of the OG provides:

- *“The Central Council shall adopt a Code of Conduct for Officers, Members, Players, Parents/Guardians, Mentors, Supporters, Match Officials, Teams and Units, defining appropriate behaviour and practices. The Code shall specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Code. This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with the Code.”*

The Code is binding on all GAA Participants and participation and/or attendance at GAA related events is subject to compliance with the Code

REQUIREMENT FOR GAA PARTICIPANTS

In respect of any GAA Activity, each GAA Participant shall:

- Implement the Guiding Principles of the Code of Conduct:
 - Comply with the Rules in the Official Guide (OG)
 - Implement, support, and promote the GAA Code of Conduct;
 - Maintain, demonstrate, and promote the highest standards of integrity;
 - Maintain, demonstrate, and promote the highest standards of respect;
 - Respect the decisions of all referees, match officials, Committees and Councils;
 - Respect all GAA Participants and Committees and Councils;
 - Respect all property and equipment of the GAA.
- Implement the Law and Rules of the Code of Conduct:
 - Comply with the Rules in the OG;
 - Implement, support, and promote the Code of Conduct;
 - Cooperate with any investigation in respect of an alleged breach of the Code;



- Cooperate with any investigation into alleged breaches of the law by a GAA Participant arising out of a GAA Activity;
 - Report breaches of the Rules to the appropriate GAA person or Committee in accordance with the relevant Rule;
 - Submit to the authority of the relevant Committee in accordance with the relevant Rule
- Promote the highest standards of personal conduct;
 - Behave in a manner that upholds the values of the GAA;
 - Promote and support fair play;
 - Demonstrate a positive attitude to the games and activities of the GAA;
 - Not do any of the following: -
 - use foul or abusive language;
 - use any other forms of abuse;
 - provide any form of character reference for an individual as part of legal or Court Proceedings, in his or her capacity as an Officer of the GAA (if applicable).
 - participate in any match-fixing activity.

ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE CODE

Alleged breaches of the Code by a GAA Participant arising from GAA Activity in connection with a Club shall be dealt with in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Milltown-Castlemaine GAA Club, but this will not apply to alleged breaches within the respective jurisdictions of the Central Council, Provincial Councils, County Committees and Overseas Units.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the GAA Code of Conduct please refer to the relevant sections on the main GAA website (<https://www.gaa.ie>) for both:

- Juvenile Club - Code of Conduct
- Senior Club - Code of Conduct



Milltown-Castlemaine GAA Club

Underage Code of Conduct

GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT

Dear Players, Supporters, Parents & Guardians,

As we prepare for the upcoming season, we would like to thank you once again for your ongoing support of the GAA club. We would like to welcome back all our players (new and old) for the new season. We are excited to get back on the field to provide a safe facility, fun environment, and training to assist our valued young players in developing self-esteem, values, and skills, both in football and in life.

Milltown-Castlemaine GAA Club is grateful to our voluntary Coaches who give of their time and skills to ensure the proud tradition and success of Football in the parish is maintained.

The Club would like to draw your attention to the following extracts of the GAA Code of Conduct Policy with respect to underage players, to ensure enjoyment and participation, for all, in the playing season ahead.

COACHES

Milltown-Castlemaine coaches will:

- Develop an understanding of the coaching methods for the age group.
- Be positive during coaching sessions, games, and other activities so that underage players always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person.
- Only enter the field of play with the Referee's permission.
- Never use foul language or provocative language / gestures to a player, opponent, or match official.
- Treat each one equally regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin.
- Lead by example and emphasise the skills of Football.
- Ensure maximum participation for all players.
- Injured players are not encouraged or forced to play.
- As a coach always be punctual and properly attired.



PLAYERS

Milltown-Castlemaine players will:

- Accept that when they sign a membership form, they agree to abide to this Code of Conduct and to any other policies or codes of conduct within the GAA as the National Governing Body.
- Respect all coaches, mentors, and officials.
- Acknowledge that due to their participation they also have a responsibility to treat others with fairness and respect.
- Play by the rules and take responsibility for one's own behaviour.
- Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour.
- Show respect to others regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin.
- Represent their team, their Club and their family with pride and dignity.
- Do not behave in an unsporting manner.
- Accept the decisions of match officials.
- Shake hands with opponents & the ref after each game regardless of the result.
- Take due care of Club equipment.

SUPPORTERS

Active, loyal, and well-behaved supporters are always welcome to attend and support our games but should be aware that their conduct will reflect upon the team, players, and Club that they support and represent. Milltown-Castlemaine supporters will:

- Applauding good performance and efforts from Club's players and from opponents, regardless of the result.
- Condemning the use of violence in any form, be it by fellow spectators, coaches, officials, or players.
- Encouraging players to participate according to the rules and the referees' decisions.
- Demonstrating appropriate behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches, or officials.
- Respecting the decisions of all officials.
- Never ridiculing or scolding a player for making a mistake during games or competitions.
- Showing respect to Club's opponents. Without them there would be no games or competitions.
- Upholding the principles of FAIR PLAY and RESPECT for all.
- Ensure that other spectators conduct themselves in an acceptable and well-behaved manner at all times, when attending our games and competitions.



PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/Guardians have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to fully participate in Gaelic Games, whether by playing our games or attending training or coaching sessions. Our association constantly seek the active participation of all parents and guardians, particularly at Club level, where the ethos of volunteerism forms the basis of our community led Clubs.

In common with Coaches and Club personnel, the Parents/Guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children as they participate in Gaelic Games.

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 (Club's Children's Officer, Coaching Officer or Chairman) if they have concerns about the standard of coaching.
- Have, as a member, a say in relation to decisions being made within the Club.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILD TO:

- Always play by the rules.
- Improve their skills levels.
- Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability.
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle regarding exercise, food, rest, and play.
 - Advice maybe sought if necessary, from Club officials on this issue.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS 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 your own child or any other child 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.'
 - Rather, ask them 'Did they enjoy themselves.'
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player.
- Applaud good play from all teams.
- Do not criticise playing performances.
 - Identify how improvements may be made.



- Do not seek to unfairly affect a game or player.
- NEVER enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD:

- Complete and return the annual registration/permission and medical consent forms 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 gum shields, gloves, boots, rain gear etc.
- Ensure that the nutrition / hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- Never encourage your child(ren) to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.
- Listen to what their child may have to say.
- Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game.
- Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in games.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ASSIST THEIR CLUB BY:

- Supporting the Club through becoming an active member and participating in Club activities and fundraising initiatives.
- Show appreciation to volunteers, coaches, and club officials.
- Attend training and games on a regular basis.
- Assist in the organising of club activities and events as requested.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background, or religion.
- Not enter team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach(es) to protect the privacy of other underage players.

GAME TIME / TEAM SELECTION

Ultimately Managers & Coaches as appointed by the Club and their management teams will have the full discretion to select players from their squad based on ability and performance in training sessions and matches, especially for the A competitions.



The Club endorses the view that players should be challenged at a level commensurate with their skills and ability. All players will be facilitated across all the teams we have in all the age groups at various ranges of ability and competition.

The Club will ask Management/ Coaching teams to facilitate players "on the age" where possible. This is contingent on players adhering to normal rules around regular attendance at Training/Challenge matches. If a player is absent, please inform the coaches, via the app, as soon as possible.

PARENT/GUARDIAN - DISPUTES

If a parent or guardian has any issues to raise regarding their child's participation or performance in a team, they may raise this with the team coach(es) but should do so in a constructive and non-confrontational manner and not in the company or vicinity of young players or other parents.

Specifically, Parents / Guardians will **SHOULD NOT** approach the Management teams before or after matches to query selection/substitutions or their games management. Instead, please follow the procedure as outlined below.

- If Parents / Guardians wishes to discuss issues of concern due to team selection or team management with a Manager/Coach regarding their Player, they are asked to make contact in writing via email or via the APP players group with the Manager / Coach to have a discussion outside of the scheduled Training session/Match time and at a time and venue that suits both.
- This is subject to a cooling off period of 24 hours where no meeting between Parents / Guardians or the Manager / Coach can take place.
- The Club will require the Manager/ Coach be accompanied by a fellow Coach/Minor Committee member in such discussions.
- Additionally, complaints about the conduct or practice of a coach can be brought to the attention of the Club's Children's Officer, Coaching Officer or Chairman.

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as repeated aggression, be it verbal, psychological, or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others.

Milltown-Castlemaine GAA Club has a zero tolerance to bullying behaviour of any player (child), manager or coaching member of our club. We are committed to achieving an ethos of respect to maximise the potential of all our members when playing or participating in our club.



Incidents of bullying behaviour will be addressed appropriately with mechanisms in place via the Club Executive and our Club Children's Officer. If you become aware of or have a concern that bullying behaviour is happening within our Club setup, you should report the matter to our Club Executive and our Club Children's Officer without hesitation.

The Club will follow all correct guidelines as outlined by the 'GAA Code of Behaviour (Underage)' policy, that is available on the gaa.ie website (<https://www.gaa.ie>), during any bullying instances in our club. All parties involved will be provided with a fair hearing and due diligence during the process.

INJURIES

First and foremost, the Club, through the relevant Management team and Chairman/Secretary, must be informed about any acute injuries which require Medical Assessment.

As per the GAA Injury Benefit Fund, Failure to inform Club personnel about such injuries incurred during official training sessions or matches, will mean that the Club will not be able to follow through with an application for assistance from the aforementioned fund.

All Parents / Guardians need to be fully informed as to the operation of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund; for further details on the funds please reference the gaa.ie website (<https://www.gaa.ie>) or contact the Club Secretary (secretary.milltowncastlemaine.kerry@gaa.ie).

We ask all Parents / Guardians to sign this form as an undertaking to abide by the above Policy for the year ahead and we look forward to a great season of action as always.

THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING US TO LOOK AFTER YOUR CHILDREN.

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