

## Coaches' Code of Conduct

St Brigid's GAC Belfast promotes a child centred approach and philosophy in the running of the club to ensure that those working with children and young people are at all times provided a quality sporting and social programme, by working to an agreed philosophy and set of standards. Enforcement of this conduct is the responsibility of every member and any queries about the code should be referred to the Children's Officer(s).

*All coaches must:*

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all and treat everyone equitably.
- Not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward. Develop a proper attitude towards our game.
- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun. Place well-being and safety of any juvenile above the development of performance, and adhere to all guidelines laid down by the club and GAA in general. Have knowledge and acceptance of the ideals of the GAA.
- Give young people the chance to try out different playing positions and ensure if possible, the greatest number of games for the greatest number of players.
- Create opportunities for participants to learn appropriate sports behaviour as well as basic skills.
- Give priority to free play activities, skill learning and small-sided games over highly structured competitions.
- Ensure activities are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the young player.
- Keep up to date with coaching practices and qualifications and the principles of physical growth and development. Take responsibility for ensuring training is kept up-to-date and keep abreast of any development within the Association.
- Help young people understand that playing by the rules is their responsibility. Show integrity and respect in relationships.
- Always promote positive aspects of sport, fair play and never condone or participate in rules violation, bad sportsmanship, the use of foul and abusive language, the use of sectarian language and banter, the use of prohibited substances, the use of gestures or emblems which could be interpreted as provocative.
- Encourage young people to participate in administration, coaching and refereeing as well as playing.

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- Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport and teach your players to do the same.
- Relate to officials in a courteous and polite way.
- Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Implement relevant sport safety policies and practices. Become familiar with the basics of first aid.
- Arrive on time for all coaching sessions, competitions, social occasions and coaches must inform an appropriate person if they are unable to attend.
- Encourage and guide young people to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance and encourage young people to feel confident and comfortable in making personal choices.
- Ensure attendance records are kept of all recognised club sessions with the attendance of each participant noted appropriately. A club incident form must be used to record any accidents, injuries or untoward event.
- Implement policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- Listen to your players and ensure that the time they spend with you is a positive experience.
- Respect the rights and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

I understand and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the club committee.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Counter-signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(by Children's Officer)