

Club Underage Discipline Policy

Fair Play

Respect

Equal Opportunities

Safety



MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

Discipline in sport should always be positive in focus, providing the structure and rules that allow participants to learn to set their own goals and strive for them. It should encourage young people to become more responsible for themselves and therefore more independent.

The main form of discipline should be positive reinforcement for effort. It should encourage the development of emotional and social skills as well as skills in sport. Children should be helped to become responsible about the decisions and choices they make within sport, particularly when they are likely to make a difference between playing fairly and unfairly. There should be no place for fighting, over-aggressive or dangerous behaviour in sport. Participants should treat others in a respectful manner. They should not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of others.

DISCIPLINE LEVELS

The use of sanctions is an important element in the maintenance of discipline.

Coaches have the authority to apply sanctions where deemed necessary, however, coaches should have a clear understanding of where and when sanctions are appropriate. **The age and developmental stage of the child should be taken into consideration when using sanctions.**

The following steps are suggested:

Minor Offences

- A warning should be given if a rule is broken, e.g. poor conduct.
- A sanction (for example, use of time out) should be applied if a rule is broken for a second time.
- If a rule is broken three or more times, the child should be spoken to, and if necessary, the parents/guardians should be informed.
- If the offences continue the coach can request that the player be suspended from training & matches for a defined period.

Serious Offences

Serious offences can be defined as:

- Continuous breaches of discipline.
- Refusal to carry out the instructions of the coach.
- Wilful damage to club property or that of visiting teams,
- Bringing the club into disrepute through the player's actions during a training session, match or any event organised by the club.
- Any form of Bullying

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In the event of such incidents occurring, the coach can ask the parent/guardian to collect their child from the training/match and suspend the player from playing or training for a defined period. The coach may also report the incident to the disciplinary committee of St. Peters Dunboyne GAA Club if s/he deems it necessary. On receipt of any such complaint the disciplinary committee will investigate the incident and recommend any further punishment deemed proportionate to the offence involved.

APPOINTMENT OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary Committee should consist of a representative from the Juvenile Committee (e.g. the Chairperson), the Children's Officer and an ordinary registered member of the club. Regular turnover of this committee is recommended.

The issue of confidentiality is important. Information is on a need to know basis.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

It is the responsibility of the Disciplinary Committee to resolve problems relating to the conduct of its members. A complaint of any incident of suspected misconduct, including bullying, with the exception of issues in relation to child abuse should be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee should inform the individual with details of the complaint being made against them and afford them the opportunity of providing a response either verbally or in writing. It is recommended that the Disciplinary Committee meet with all parties involved, affording each party the same rights and opportunities.

The Disciplinary Committee should form a written report outlining the procedure followed, findings, conclusions and any disciplinary actions to be taken.

All parties should receive a copy of this report. This report should also be kept on record. The Disciplinary Committee should, as soon as possible, inform the Management Committee of the progress and conclusions of the disciplinary process.

If the member is under 18 years of age, communication and correspondence should be addressed to parents/ guardians.

SANCTIONS

Where it is established that an incident of misconduct has taken place, the disciplinary committee should notify the member of any sanction being imposed.

The notification should be made in writing, setting out the reasons for the sanction.

If the member is under 18 years of age, correspondence should be addressed to parents/ guardians.

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APPEAL PROCEDURE

If the member against whom the complaint was made is unhappy with the decision of the Disciplinary Committee s/ he should have the right to appeal the decision to an Appeals Committee (independent of the Disciplinary Committee).

Any appeal should be made in writing within 7 days after issue of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The Chairperson of the Appeals Committee should be a member of the Management Committee or elected by the members at an AGM.

The Appeals Committee have the power to confirm, set aside or change any sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.

If any party is not satisfied with the outcome, the matter can be referred to the National Children's Officer. However efforts to resolve the issue at local level should be exhausted before the National Children's Officer is engaged in attempts to resolve the matter. Any Appeal submitted at National level will be heard by the Management Committee, with their decision being final.