



## St. Peter's GAA, Dunboyne

### CLUB UNDERAGE DISCIPLINE POLICY

#### 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.

#### MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

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 considerations 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 (e.g. 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 players be suspended from training & matches for a defined period.

##### Serious Offences

Serious offences can be defined as:

- Continuous breach 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.

**Let us ensure that everyone working on our behalf emphasises FAIR PLAY, RESPECT, EQUALITY, SAFETY and NO DISCRIMINATION in all aspects of our work with children and young people.**