

Code of Conduct for St. Mary's Bord na nÓg Parents/Guardians

Version: V2

Replaces: V1

Approved by: Bord na nóg

Date: April 2019

Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

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 with regard to exercise, food, rest and play

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

Parents should 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?' 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
- Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge
- Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms

Parents/Guardians must:

- Complete and return the 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



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- Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities. Know the finish times of training - ensure that you arrive at the end of training
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of our games including for example mouthguards, togs & socks in club colours, etc
- Arrange to have their child brought to/collected from all club related activities
- Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met
- 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
- *Abide by the team ethos as laid out by the club coaches at the different age groups as regards participation versus competition*

Parents/Guardians should assist their club by:

- Showing appreciation to volunteers, coaches and Club officials
- Attending training and games on a regular basis
- Assisting in the organising of Club activities and events as requested
- Respecting 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 entering team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach(es) so as to protect the privacy of other underage players
- *Not approaching any member of a coaching team with suggestions as regards team play, team selection etc. unless otherwise requested to do so.*
- *Never communicating with any member of the coaching team in a critical or unfair manner following a match (in person or by text/phone/email) – particularly in relation to team selection or team play.*

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
- *Raise any issue with the coaching team that has responsibility for their son/daughter provided it is done in a respectful manner, is done at a suitable time and takes into account all salient factors*
- *Avail of the club grievance procedure which is as follows:*

1.	<i>Any parent who may be unhappy with any aspect of the coaching that is being provided to their son/daughter can, in the first instance, raise the issue with any member of the coaching team.</i>
2.	<i>If, following stage 1, there is no satisfactory resolution to the issue this can be escalated to the Club Coaching Officer for further discussion or investigation.</i>
3.	<i>Further escalation may be required in extreme circumstances to the Bord na nÓg Chairman – the Chairman can make a determination whether the Executive is required to be involved or informed.</i>



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The executive committee of the club reserves the right to review the above Code of Conduct and execute alterations if deemed necessary.

Please remember the golden rules:

- **The players are children.**
- **The coaches are volunteers.**
- **The referee's are trying to be fair.**
- **This is meant to be fun.**

