

## Code of Conduct for St. Mary's Bord na nÓg Coaches

Version:     V1    

Replaces:     n/a    

Approved by:     Bord na nóg    

Date:     April 2019    

*(New Code of Conduct – not in place previously)*

### Code of Conduct - Personal

- The safeguarding of the young players is our primary concern
- Show approval for effort, not just results
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player
- Respect the dignity of every person and treat each one equally regardless of age, gender ability ethnic origin, cultural background or religion
- Be positive during coaching sessions, games and other activities so that participants always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Coaches should lead by example
- Do not smoke while working with young players
- Do not consume alcohol or non-prescribed drugs immediately prior to or while young players are in your care
- Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials
- Promote Fair Play
- Encourage parents to become involved in our activities
- Don't shout at or lecture players or reprimand/ridicule them when they make a mistake.
- Children learn best through trial and error.
- Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with children based on mutual trust and respect.
- Challenge bullying in any form whether physical or emotional. Bullying is not acceptable behaviour be it from a young person, mentor, parent or guardian.
- A coach cannot be in a situation where you are alone in a car or dressing room with a player
- A coach cannot take coaching sessions on your own
- A coach cannot take young players to your home
- Ensure that all players are suitably and safely attired to play their chosen sport
- Be punctual and properly attired
- Use mobile phones, if deemed appropriate only via a group texts system for communicating with the parents/guardians of players and receive such permission at the commencement of each season



**St. Mary's GAA Club**  
**Code of Conduct**

- Do not communicate individually by text with under age players. All players from U6 to U18 grade. A coach can communicate to the U18 grade with parental consent.
- Ensure that all dressing rooms and the general areas that are occupied by your player and other club personnel, prior to, during or immediately following the completion of any match are kept clean and are not damaged in any way
- Make adequate provision for First Aid services
- Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured or unwell.
- If a club player under your charge must attend A&E ensure someone from the coaching team also calls up; ensure a follow-up with the parents the following day

**Code of Conduct – Sport Related**

- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise – lead by example
- Recognise the development needs and capacity of all young players, regardless of their ability, by emphasising participation for all while avoiding excessive training and competition
- Develop an understanding of relevant coaching methods and ensure that you have the appropriate level of coaching accreditation
- Don't equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies
- The level of improvement made by young players is the best indicator of effective coaching
- Do not criticise playing performances - Identify how improvements may be made
- Liaise closely with players regarding County Development squads and academies
- Arrange one trip away outside the county for the panel in the year

