

2 Dignity and Rights of Young People



It is important that all young players are valued and treated with the highest level of respect throughout these important years of their personal, physical and social development. The personal dignity and physical integrity of a young person is of paramount importance and their participation in sport should provide them with a period in their life that enables them to have fun, make friends and present them with an opportunity to improve their levels of skill, regardless of what sport they choose.

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (GAA) believes that a child and youth centred approach should be adopted by everyone involved in the promotion and development of Gaelic Games at underage level.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard and promote the interests and well being of those under 18 years of age who are involved in our games and activities.
- Take all reasonable steps to protect young people from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment.
- Respect the rights that young people have including their wishes and feelings.

- Maintain the professionalism, standards and reputation of the GAA.
- Protect the Association's young members, employees and governing bodies.

The following principles govern the development and implementation of this Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport:

- The welfare of the child and young person is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age have a right to protection from harm.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously, will be responded to swiftly and in an appropriate manner.

This Code of Best Practice will, insofar as is possible, have equal application to vulnerable adults who are defined as having special needs or where vulnerability is defined as 'a person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services or is resident in a continuing care facility by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness or who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.