



SUNCROFT GFC



Code of Conduct and Best Practice

Suncroft GFC is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. The club encourage 'best practice' in the playing of our games and the club is committed to providing an environment and ethos which will at all times, shows respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare. Every individual in the club should at all times show respect and understanding for their safety, and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the codes of conduct and best practice as described in this document and in the rules and regulations of the club, the LGFA and the GAA.

Underage players deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse in any form. The Gaelic Athletic Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, the Camogie Association, GAA Handball Ireland and the Rounders Council of Ireland publish a joint Code of Best Behaviour and all members of Suncroft GFC will adhere to the requirements of this publication. Available at the following link: <http://www.gaa.ie/news/gaa-code-behaviour/>

Gaelic Games are often described as a fast-paced, frantic kaleidoscope of action that will have you trying to look in several directions at once. They are a rip-roaring good time. It's tribal and can be about deeply engrained rivalries. Physically challenging and emotionally explosive.

All that said it is a game and there will be another one next week, next month and regularly for years to come. Everyone involved should be passionate in their support but at the same time always be respectful to all the players, officials, and supporters of both teams.

At the highest level, with replays from television cameras pointing from numerous different angles, different neutral expert commentators and pundits often disagree as to the severity of a foul, the intent behind a foul, was it over the line, it should have been a free in, no it should have been a free out, etc. The team manager or coach seldom play the teams that the neutral expert commentators and pundits would have played, the tactics are mostly wrong, and the substitutions are mostly viewed as being for the wrong players at the wrong time.

When at a local club match all involved are playing, watching, and supporting with a natural bias towards their club.

The referee and other match officials will get some calls wrong, mostly it will end up being balanced but some days it will go for your team and some days it will go against. That is the nature of the amateur games we play and when at a game we must accept it for what it is. The same can be said for team managers, coaches, selectors, and players. They will all have average days, great days, and crappy days, again that is the nature of the amateur games we play and when at a game we must accept it for what it is.

Respect the time, effort, and commitment that the players, team coaches, selectors and managers are giving to provide this outlet for energy, excitement, and entertainment.

Every effort should be made not to have any heat of the moment outbursts. If you genuinely believe you can do it better, then get involved with the club or the team and help them to improve. Get fit and make the team, do the courses, and qualify to coach or become a referee, the GAA and LGFA are always looking for more referees.



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General Code of Conduct and Best Practice

Suncroft GFC is founded on the core values of mutual respect. All members must value each person and encourage respect amongst team members, managers, coaches, selectors, mentors, and other members of the club.

The achievement of 'best practice' is dependent on:

- The development of skill and wellbeing through the playing, coaching and promotion of our games.
- The adoption of the principles of fair play and good behaviour at all times by all parties involved.
- The development of a positive, constructive, supportive, and encouraging team environment.
- Maximising the sense of achievement, fun and participation in order to develop players to their full potential.

Coaching resources and activities are firmly rooted in the local community. The club is committed to providing an environment that promotes a 'sense of belonging' in the club and an ethos that will allow:

- Players to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation.
- Officials to undertake their duties to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation.

Inappropriate behaviour by any member of the club (or any person/persons associated with the club) that undermines these values is unacceptable and will be considered a breach of this Code of Conduct and Best Practice.

All persons associated with Suncroft GFC are expected to uphold and promote this ethos in all roles that they undertake on behalf of Suncroft GFC or in support of Suncroft GFC.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct and Best Practice by any member of the club will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary processes of the club, GAA and LGFA as appropriate.

RESPECT

- RESPONSIBLE
- ENCOURAGING
- SUPPORTIVE
- POSITIVE
- ENABLING
- CONSIDERATE
- TOLERANT





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Team Managers, Selectors, Mentors & Coaches

(referred to hereafter as Coaches)

Players First - Winning Second

A balanced approach to competition can make a significant contribution to the development of players, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and satisfaction. In developing the skill level of every player Coaches should always encourage enjoyment and fun while ensuring meaningful participation in our games and activities. Coaches must be very aware that if competition demands are placed on young players too early, excessive levels of pressure and anxiety are placed on them. Often this results in a high level of drop-out from the sport which goes against one of the main missions of the GAA and LGFA which is to have as many people as possible playing our games. Club Coaches must place the welfare of the person, and retention of players first and competition second. Coaches must help each and every player to reach their potential, whatever that may be.

Suncroft GFC recognises the key role Coaches play in the lives and development of players. Team Coaches can ensure that our sport has a beneficial impact when they adhere to the following principles.

Coaches must maintain a player centred approach:

- Never allow an unregistered player to partake in a club training secession or play in a club game (should an unregistered player partake, and something go wrong, such as the player getting injured, the club has no responsibility, but the player (parents/guardian) may seek to hold the coach responsible).
- Be familiar with the club, GAA and LGFA (as appropriate) rules and codes of practice.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player and treat each player equally, regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, background, or ability.
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors, and other coaches, and avoid criticism of mentors and officials.
- Be truthful and positive during coaching sessions, games, and other activities so that participants always leave with positive sense of learning and/or achievement.
- Recognise the development needs and capacity of all players, regardless of their ability, by emphasising participation and teamwork.
- At younger ages skills development and personal satisfaction should have priority.
- At older ages, while mindful of individual needs, teamwork and team development should have priority.
- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at individual players for making mistakes or when a game is lost.
- Ensure that games, activities and playing equipment suit the needs of those involved in terms of age, ability, experience, and maturity.



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- Be careful to avoid the "star" system. Each player deserves time, opportunity, and attention.
- Do not equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies. The level of improvement made by a player and/or by a team is the best indicator of effective coaching.
- Ensure that players and any personnel connected with the team do not speak to another person in a manner that threatens, disparages, vilifies, or insults.
- Ensure that players and any personnel connected with the team respect the rules of the game.
- Insist on fair play and ensure players are aware that you, and the club, will not tolerate cheating, threatening or bullying behaviour.
- Set realistic (challenging but achievable) performance goals.
- Ensure that all dressing rooms, facilities, and areas occupied/used by the team (whether at home or away) are not abused or damaged in any way.

Coaches must lead by example:

- Do not speak about individuals or teams outside the team and club environment. Anything that you say will find its way back to the individual or team and will be either exaggerated, misquoted, or understated.
- Avoid using foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent, or match official.
- Only enter the field of play with the referee's permission.
- Do not question a referee's decision or integrity.
- Encourage players, officials, and supporters to respect and accept the judgement of match officials without question.
- Promote fair play.
- Be punctual, properly attired, and lead by example.
- Avoid smoking when working with players.
- Do not consume alcohol or non-prescribed drugs before, or while, players are in your care or charge.
- Encourage spouses, partners, parents, guardians, and children of players to become involved in your team and club activities whenever possible.

When working with underage players:

- Avoid working alone with children at all times. At least TWO adults must be in attendance with each squad/team at all times for all activities (training and matches). If this is not possible, the activity should be cancelled. It is important to realise that this is essential for player safety and child protection, and also for the protection of Coaches from any misinterpretation or misreporting of actions, and from unfair or malicious accusations.



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- Do not shout or lecture players or reprimand / ridicule them when they make mistakes. Young players learn best through trial and error and should not be afraid to risk error.
- Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force.
- Avoid incidents of horse play or role play or telling jokes, etc. that could be misinterpreted or misrepresented.
- Ensure that all physical contact is appropriate and has the permission and understanding of the young person. This includes when assisting players to perform a technique or when called upon to perform First Aid
- Never undertake any form of therapy or hypnosis, in training young players.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with young players based on mutual trust and respect. Be responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between working relationship and friendship with players. It is advisable that coaches do not involve players in their personal life.
- Challenge bullying in any form whether physical or emotional. Bullying in not acceptable behaviour be it in from a young person, player, coach, parent, guardian, spectator, match official or any other person.
- Make adequate provision for First Aid and do not allow players to perform while injured.
- Do not allow the use of cameras, videos, camera-phones etc., in changing rooms. The inappropriate use of images of underage players must be reported.
- If overnight stays are required for matches or trips for underage players, players and Coaches must observe and sign a separate agreement in accordance with club regulations. For underage members, parents/guardians must also sign permission forms. No child should be allowed overnight without such a form being completed.
- Texts, e-mails, memos and phone calls for all underage players up to the age of 16 must always, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, be communicated through parents/guardians.
- Texts, e-mails, memos and phone calls to all underage players, over the age of 16 but under the age of 18, must always be communicated through parents/guardians. However, group texts and e-mails can be sent directly to underage players, over the age of 16 but under the age of 18, if the parent or guardian request, in writing, that a player is communicated with directly (the written request should detail the phone number and / or e-mail to be used). A coach has the right to accept or refuse this parental / guardian request.
- A Coach must never directly phone an underage player. A Coach must never send an individual text or e-mail to an underage player. Only group texts and/or e-mails should be used.
- The nature of the relationship between Coaches and players is based on trust and confidence. Occasionally Coaches may acquire information of a confidential nature about their players. This information must remain confidential and except where abuse is suspected, must not be divulged to a third party.
- Parents/guardians should always be informed immediately when problems arise with young players except in situations where informing parents may put the player at further risk. In such a situation the relevant clubs children's officer should be contacted immediately.



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- Coaches must be mindful that as players at U16, U17 and U18 age levels step up to U20, U21 or senior panels that it is a very large step and an environment must be created to encourage all of them to participate and keep participating. Players that are used to being leaders at their own age level up through the years will have to compete for a place on a team for the first time which can be difficult for some. If not Coached properly players that are not the strongest player at their own age level can be left behind or overwhelmed and end up walking away from the sport.

Coaches Must Adopt Best Practice:

- Ensure that all players are suitably and safely attired to partake in the activity.
- Keep a record of attendance at training and at games by both players and coaches.
- Be aware of any special medical or dietary requirements of players as indicated by them or by the players or parent / guardian.
- Do not administer medication or medical aid unless you have received the necessary training to administer such aid.
- Be punctual and properly attired.
- Insist on fair play and ensure players are aware that you, and the club, will not tolerate cheating, threatening or bullying behaviour.
- Ensure that players and any personnel connected with the team do not speak to another person in a manner that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults.
- Up to under 12 years level, rotate the team captaincy and the method used for selecting teams so that the same players are not selected to the exclusion of others.
- Set realistic (stretching but achievable) performance goals.
- Encourage spouses, partners, parents, guardians and children of players to become involved in your team and club activities whenever possible.
- Communicate with players appropriately. A Coach must never directly phone an underage player. A Coach must never send an individual text or e-mail to an underage player. Only group texts and/or e-mails can be legitimately used.
- Do not engage in communicating with underage players via social media/network sites.
- Keep records of injuries and actions subsequently taken. Ensure that another official / referee / coach is present when a player is being attended to and can corroborate the relevant details.
- Ensure that all dressing rooms and general areas that are occupied by your players are kept clean and are not damaged in any way.
- If it is necessary to transport a child / young person in your car, ensure that they are seated in the rear seat with belts securely fastened and that at least one other party is in the car.
- Make adequate provision for First Aid services.
- Do not engage or permit players to play while injured.
- Fully abide by the rules and regulations of the GAA, LGFA and the club.

Never make winning the primary or sole objective!



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Code of Conduct and Best Practice

Adult / Senior Players

Suncroft GFC is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. We encourage Best Practice in the playing of our games and we are committed to providing an environment and ethos which will at all times, shows respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare. We aim to assist our adult / senior players in achieving their true potential by fair and ethical means. In accordance with this guiding philosophy, our sport must be drug free and played in accordance with a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship.

Adult / senior players have rights which must be respected. The club, the GAA and the LGFA have rules, procedures and codes of conduct that adult / senior players must accept and respect. Adult / senior players can ensure that our sport has a beneficial impact for them, for the club and for the community when they adhere to this Code of Conduct and Best Practice:

Adult / Senior Players should:

- Understand and accept that only fully paid up and registered members of the club may participate in any training secession or play in any game.
- Represent Suncroft GFC and the Suncroft community with pride and dignity.
- At all times, act in a manner that reflects well on themselves, their families, Suncroft GFC and the community.
- Respect players, coaches, managers, selectors, team-mates, all match officials, and opponents on and off the field of play. This respect must also be reflected in behaviour and language during both games and training.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player and treat each player equally, regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion, background or ability.
- Play fair and do not participate in cheating, threatening or bullying behaviour.
- Never speak to another player, team mate or opponent, or any personnel or official connected with the team in a manner that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults.
- Accept that it is the coaches job top coach, not theirs, and don't tell other players what to do and what not to do.
- Take personal responsibility for their own performance and ensure that they preform to their best ability for the full duration of games, irrespective of who is winning or losing and irrespective of how teammates are performing.
- Lead by example on the field.
- Welcome young players onto the team panel and work to help them to help them migrate from underage to adult level. Actively involve them in play in training and in games and help them to integrate with the team. Ensure they are not exposed to excessive physical attention by older / more developed team members or members of the opposing team. Never speak to them in a manner that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults on or off the field.
- Never bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player.
- Never use bullying tactics to gain an unfair advantage.
- Respect fellow team members - even when things go wrong.
- Respect opponents. Be humble in victory and be gracious in defeat.



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- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the sport and our club into disrepute.
- Accept apologies from opponents when offered.
- Shake hands with their opponents before and after the game irrespective of the result.
- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or when a game is lost.
- Never equate losing with failure.
- Never spread rumours about other players, coaches or officials.
- Attend all games, training sessions and team meetings at the appointed times unless specifically excused by prior arrangement. Punctuality is required of all, mentors, coaches and players alike. Habitual lateness is not acceptable.
- Notify their team manager at the earliest possible time if they cannot attend any team event for whatever reason.
- Understand that all reasonable measures will be undertaken to inform them of the date, time, and location of training and games. However, players must be proactive in finding out such information, most especially if they were absent for whatever reason from a previous training session or game.
- Always wear some form of club top to the game and full club colours while selected on a panel for a game.
- Be in a proper physical condition to allow them to perform to the best of their ability in games for Suncroft GFC.
- Avoid the after effects of alcohol in preparation for games.
- Avoid and refrain from the consumption of non-subscription drugs and substances of any kind.
- Accept that anything discussed at meetings, training sessions or games is to be kept inside the group. Anything that you say external to the group will find its way back to the individual or team and will be either exaggerated, misquoted or understated.
- Play for any team that management requests.
- Make an effort to take an active part in all club events.
- Respect club property and the personal belongings of others and ensure that dressing rooms, equipment and facilities are not damaged in any way.
- Accept that adequate facilities will not always be available and work positively with what is available.
- Wear the correct clothing and protective equipment (mouth guard), etc. in all training and matches.
- Never use social media or network sites to discuss any team affairs or make negative comments about Suncroft GFC, team mates, coaches, selectors or mentors.
- Never use cameras, videos, camera-phones etc., in changing rooms.
- Abide by the rules and regulations of the GAA, LGFA and the club.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct and Best Practice by any member of the club will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary processes of the club, GAA and LGFA as appropriate.



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Code of Conduct and Best Practice

Young Players

- Young players deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse and intimidation in any form. These players have rights which must be respected. The club, the GAA and the LGFA have rules, procedures and codes of conduct that players must accept and respect. Players can ensure that our sport has a beneficial impact for them, for the club and for the community when they adhere to the following Code of Conduct and Best Practice:
- Young Players should:
- Understand and accept that only fully paid up and registered members of the club may participate in any training secession or play in any game.
- Treat all mentors (coaches, managers club officials, selectors etc.) with respect.
- Play fairly and respect their opponents.
- Respect fellow team members - even when things go wrong.
- Respect opponents, be humble in victory and be gracious in defeat.
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the sport and our club into disrepute.
- Never cheat, use violence, verbal abuse.
- Never shout or argue with officials.
- Never bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player.
- Never use bullying tactics to gain an unfair advantage.
- Never engage in 'name-calling'.
- Always accept apologies from opponents when offered.
- Never spread rumours or tell lies about adults or other players.
- Represent their family, club, community and county with pride and dignity.
- Shake hands with their opponents before and after games irrespective of the result.
- Always adhere to proper standards of behaviour and this Code of Conduct and Best Practice.
- Have fun and participate on an equal basis.
- Have complaints treated in confidence and acted upon.
- Talk to the club's children's officer if they have any problems.
- Let the coach/mentor, know through your parents or guardians, if you are unavailable for training or for a game.
- Understand that players up to the age of 16 years, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, must not contact their coach, mentor, or team manager directly. All contact must be via their parents / guardians.
- Understand that players over 16 years and under 18 years must not contact their coaches, mentors, or team managers directly. All contact must be via their parents / guardians. However, a parent or guardian may request, in writing, that a player is communicated with directly (the written request must include detail the phone number and/or e-mail to be used) by the coach, mentor and/or team manager. The coach, mentor or team manager may refuse this request. If the coach, mentor and/or team manager do accept this request any response that they make to a text or e-mail from the player must be a group response. Coaches will not communicate directly with underage individuals and they will not communicate by phone calls.



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- Respect club property and the personal belongings of others and ensure that dressing rooms, equipment and facilities are not damaged in any way.
- Abide by the rules and regulations of the GAA, LGFA and the club.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct and Best Practice by any member of the club will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary processes of the club, GAA and LGFA as appropriate.



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Parents / Guardians

Suncroft GFC recognises that parents and guardians play a key role in relation to volunteer support for clubs and teams. Parents / guardians should not attempt to meet their own needs for success and achievement through their children's participation. Parents / Guardians must also realise and accept the rules and procedures set down by Suncroft GFC, the GAA and the LGFA.

Parents / Guardians can ensure that our sport has a beneficial impact on their family members, the community, and the club when they adhere to the following Code of Conduct and Best Practice:

Parents / Guardians should:

- Ensure that the necessary registration, permission, and medical consent forms for their child's participation in the club are completed and returned to the club.
- Inform the coaches, and any other relevant club personnel, of any of their child's medical or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games, or other activities.
- Ensure that they obtain a copy and read in full the club's Code of Conduct and Best Practice. The club recommends that every parent / guardian should read the GAA's and the LGFA's "Code of Conduct and Best Practice in Youth Sports when working with young players".
- Ensure that their child also reads and understands what is expected of them in relation to this code and the Code of Conduct and Best Practice.
- Ensure that their child understand that that the GAA, LGFA and the Club organises teams and groups on an age basis. Some flexibility is allowed at nursery level, however once structured games commence (typically at under eights) players must always prioritise their own age level for training and games. Players can play up age levels but must always prioritise their own age level for training and games (*Age levels allowed are defined for the GAA in its Official Guide under item 6.17 and for the LGFA in its Official Guide under item 284*).
- Ensure that their child is punctual for training, games, and other organised activities.
- Provide your child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of games and training.
- Ensure that the nutrition, hydration and hygiene needs of your child are met.
- Never encourage your child to consume non-prescribed drugs or to take performance enhancing supplements.
- Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, officials, and organisers.
- Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect the game or a player.
- Never intentionally expose young players to embarrassment or ridicule by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks.
- Always recognise the value and importance of volunteers. This includes coaches, mentors, team managers and officials.
- Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of officials, organisers, and mentors.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Show approval and give praise and encouragement to your own child and their team-mates for effort, skill, and improvement, and not just results. Praise in defeat is particularly important.
- Support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying.



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- Inform the coaches, mentor and/or the team managers if your child is unable to attend a match of training secession.
- Know the start and finish times of training and matches.
- Reply, where necessary to communications issued by club coaches, mentors/officials.
- Arrange to collect your child after training and matches.
- Attend games and training on a regular basis.
- Give advice to your child on the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle and attitude.
- Listen to what young people have to say.
- Never criticise playing performance.
- Where possible, assist in helping with equipment and organisation of activities associated with your child's participation in Suncroft GFC.
- Video recording is prohibited at all Suncroft GFC activities, and at all Suncroft GFC's grounds and facilities, unless written permission has been received from the club secretary in advance. It understandable that a parent/guardian may wish to take capture a moment of their child however if taking a photo make sure that permission has been received in advance from the parent/guardians of any other children that are captured in the photo, if any. If asked to stop taking photos by any member of the club or member of the public you must stop immediately.
- Bring any concerns you may have in relation to club activities to the attention of their coach, mentor, or to the club's Children's Officer.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct and Best Practice by any member of the club will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary processes of the club, GAA and LGFA as appropriate.



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Code of Conduct and Best Practice

Supporters

Suncroft GFC recognises that supporters (members and non-members) play a key role in relation to supporting the club and the various teams that the club fields. Players are eager to enjoy and benefit from the support they receive from parents, guardians, friends and other members of the club and community who attend our games as spectators and supporters. Active, loyal, and well-behaved supporters are always welcome to attend and support our games, but they should be aware that their conduct will reflect upon the team, the players, sponsors, and the club that they support and represent. Supporters should not attempt to meet their own needs for success, achievement, or reprisal through their support for club teams. Supporters are there to support the team. Supporters are not there to put down the opposition or to admonish the officials.

Supporters can ensure that they have a beneficial impact on the club teams that they support by:

- Remembering that their conduct will reflect upon the team, players, sponsors, and the clubs.
- Remembering that they have a responsibility to ensure that all spectators conduct themselves in an acceptable and well-behaved manner.
- Reporting unacceptable conduct by supporters to the officials in charge. The GAA and LGFA are family orientated organisations that encourage the attendance of young people and children at all games.
- Realising that the players from both teams are primarily participating in games so that they may enjoy themselves while also improving their skills levels.
- Uphold the principles of FAIR PLAY and RESPECT for all.
- Respecting the decisions of all officials. Unfortunately, some supporters believe that they can gain an advantage for their team by berating or abusing the officials. This is a false belief and in the vast majority of situations their team suffers.
- Remember bad reputations are easy to get but next to impossible to get rid of.
- Avoid getting drawn into a herd or mob mentality. Be your own persona and do not get drawn into inappropriate behaviour by your peers or others in your surround.
- Applauding good performance and efforts from your team's players and from your opponents, regardless of the result.
- Respecting the efforts that the team and coaches have put in during the preceding days, weeks, and months, in all kinds of weather, and stay to the end of the game to support them even when things are not going well.
- Condemning the use of violence in any form, be it by fellow spectators, coaches, officials, or players.
- Demonstrating appropriate behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches, or officials.
- Never entering the field of play, before, during or after a game, unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge.
- Never ridiculing or scolding a player for making a mistake during games or competitions.
- Showing respect to your club's opponents. Without them there would be no games or competitions.
- Video recording is prohibited at all Suncroft GFC activities, and at all Suncroft GFC's grounds and facilities, unless written permission has been received from the club secretary in advance.

It is understandable that a parent/guardian may wish to take a photo of their child however if taking a photo make sure that permission has been received in advance from the parent/guardians of any other children that are captured in the photo, if any.

If asked to stop taking photos by any member of the club or member of the public you must stop immediately.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct and Best Practice by any member of the club will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary processes of the club, GAA and LGFA as appropriate.



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Discipline

The use of sanctions is an important element in maintaining discipline. Coaches have the authority to apply sanctions when deemed necessary, however, coaches and officials need to understand where and when particular sanctions are appropriate. The age and development stage of the player should be taken into consideration when using sanctions.

The following are examples of steps that can be taken:

Minor offences: Such as poor conduct or minor infringements to the rules.

The player will be spoken to (and where appropriate for underage the parents/guardian will be informed). If the offence continues, the coach can suspend the player from training and playing in games for a defined period.

Serious offences: Such as continuous breaches of discipline, refusal to carry out the instructions of the coach, wilful damage to club property or that of visiting teams or bringing the club into disrepute through the players actions during a training session, match or any event organised by the club.

In the event of such incidents occurring, the coach can ask the player to leave (and for underage the parent/guardian to collect their child from training/match) and suspend the player from playing or training for a defined period. The coach may also report the incident to the appropriate Sub-Committee or Executive Committee of Suncroft GFC if s/he deems necessary. On receipt of any such complaint the executive committee or sub-committee will investigate and recommend any further penalty deemed proportionate to the offence(s) involved.

Underage Players Team Priority:

If a player is asked by a club official or coach to play up at a higher level / age group their priority remains with their own age group i.e. if a player is U10 and is asked to join the U13 group, they must play their U10 matches and U13s as well if they can. If there is any conflict the U10 matches take priority.

Failure to play with, and give priority to, a player's own age group will result in the player not being allowed to play at any level other than at their own age group. This rule applies from U6 up to and including Minor.

Declaration

I have read and understand this Code of Conduct and Best Practice. I hereby commit to adhere to the rules and practices outlined.

Signature(s) of Club player(s), Coach, Parent/Guardian, Member/Supporter

1. _____ Print: _____
2. _____ Print: _____
3. _____ Print: _____
4. _____ Print: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian if appropriate: _____
Print: _____

Date: _____