



Ranelagh Gaels' Code of Conduct

Introduction

The Code of Conduct (“the Code”) for all our members is developed in line with the National Code created by Sport Ireland. It is designed to incorporate the respect for, and the elimination of abuse towards referees, officials, coaches, and players and to help promote good practice within the club.

It also aims to create an atmosphere of fairness, integrity, and respect among those involved with the Ranelagh Gaels's Club (the Club) by ensuring all behaviour within our Club aligns with our values.

The Code addresses the minimum levels of behaviour, conduct and good practice procedures required by players, parents and guardians, coaches, referees and officials, volunteers and other persons who are connected to the Club collectively known as “individuals connected to the Club”.

It also emphasises the role of parents/guardians and supporters in supporting the positive development of young players in Gaelic games and avoiding actions that can have a lasting emotional effect on them.

It is important to note that the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association (“the Associations”) also issued the [Code of Behaviour \(Underage\)](#) which applies to all persons under 18 years of age who participate in Gaelic games or other activities and to those who work with them and assist them in any capacity on the Associations' behalf.

The Club also has a [Disputes & Complaints Resolution Process](#) which facilitates the investigations and resolutions of disputes among Club members which may involve issues in relation to this Code.

Our Club Values

As stated in the [Ranelagh Gaels Strategic plan](#), the Club's values of equality, diversity, inclusion, respect, and player welfare are central to everything we do and develop in the club:

Our club ethos states that Ranelagh Gaels is committed to active lifelong participation in Gaelic games for all, and to providing the best facilities available. We are committed to ensuring diversity and inclusion are built into our club, by seeking to reach out to and include all members of our society - in our club there is a place for everyone, regardless of age, cultural and ethnic background, gender, and sexual orientation.

We encourage all individuals connected to Club to report breaches of the Code so matters can be dealt with as soon as possible. See below for policies and procedures for reporting breaches and what sanctions could be involved.

Ranelagh Gaels Code of Conduct

Positive Conduct

All individuals connected to the Club should:

- Ensure that Gaelic games are played and conducted in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour and acknowledge that it is not sufficient to rely solely upon the referees/officials to uphold the Code
- Respect fellow individuals connected to the Club, referees/officials and opponents regardless of gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, religion, cultural and ethnic background, and membership of the Traveller community.
- Respect the decisions of all referees/officials, the Club's Executive Committee and other Associations' instances.
- Maintain, demonstrate and promote the highest standards of respect.
- Demonstrate a positive attitude to Gaelic games and activities.
- Listen to coaches, referees, and officials.
- Actively discourage individuals connected to the Club from abusing referees/officials, players, volunteers or opponents.
- Promote the reputation of our Club and take all steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Act as good role models.
- Maintain, demonstrate and promote the highest standards of integrity and objectivity.
- Promote the highest standards of personal conduct and put welfare of players first.
- Comply with the policies and procedures within the Club and of the Associations.
- Promote and support fair play and safety and encourage all to always play by the rules of the games.
- Encourage and applaud good performances and effort from players and opponents alike, regardless of the result.
- Thank opponents and referees/officials at the end.
- Only enter the sporting environment with the referee/official's permission.

- Be qualified and up to date with the latest rules, coaching knowledge, and skills.
- Avail of assessments, participate in continuous professional development when required and other supports to maintain and improve performance.
- Undertake to complete Garda Vetting and attend relevant child safeguarding training when working with players under 18's in consultation with our Club's Children Protection Officer.
- Demonstrate appropriate good behaviour by not using foul language, and by not engaging in abusive language or deeds or by harassing players, supporters, coaches, or referees/ officials.
- Show appreciation to volunteers, coaches, clubs, and referees/officials.
- Deal with dissent firmly and fairly.
- Remain positive when dealing with players and/or coaches, parents/guardians, and supporters.
- Maintain composure regardless of the circumstances.

Code of Conduct Breaches

All individuals connected to the Club must not:

- Shout, argue, abuse physically or verbally towards any other individuals connected to the Club at any time.
- Use violence towards players, coaches, referees/officials, opponents, or other supporters.
- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players.
- Use unacceptable language or racial, sectarian or homophobic references towards a player, opponent, coach, referee/official or supporter by words, deeds, or gestures.
- Use foul language or provocative language/gestures or behaviour towards any player, coach, referee/official or supporter.
- Use any other forms of abuse towards any individual connected to the Club.
- Abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee/official, player, or volunteer, on or off the pitch.
- Do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other person on the ground of their gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, religion, culture or ethnic background, and membership of the Traveller community.
- Ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during a game.
- Use social media to abuse players, opponents, coaches, referees/officials, volunteers, or other individuals connected to the Club.
- Use social media or social media apps for the distribution of offensive content, to taunt, bully or racially abuse others.
- Use social media to implicate or undermine players, opponents, coaches, referees/officials, volunteers, or other individuals.

- Publish or cause to be published criticism of the way the Club handled or resolved any dispute or disciplinary matter resulting from a breach of the Code.
- Behave or act in any way that infringes the rules of the games or that seeks to gain an unfair advantage.
- Aggressively challenge a referees/official's decision or integrity.
- Enter the pitch, before, during or after the game, unless authorised to do so.
- Berate your own child or any other child for their standard of play.
- Embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player, referee/official, coach, or volunteer.
- Undertake any other unsporting like behaviour.

Pledge

Every individual connected to the Club needs to understand their individual responsibility and accountability for the implementation and promotion of the Code.

All individuals connected to the Club must commit the Code as the basic level of agreement between them and the Club by reading, understanding, and accepting the Code and agreeing to be bound by the areas set out in the Code while participating or attending training, games, gatherings in any capacity

Breaches of the Code

All individuals connected to the Club who identify a conduct in breach of this Code should report it first to the coaches responsible for the involved individual.

- If necessary, the relevant coaching panel will advise the Vice Chairperson. If the breach involves a child (i.e., someone under the age of 18), the parent or guardian of the involved child should be advised, and, if applicable, the Children Protection Officer.

Legal matters (i.e., incidents of alleged criminal behaviour, suspected criminal behaviour, alleged child abuse) will be directed to the relevant authorities.

Dealing with breaches of the Code

The Club will manage disciplinary matters appropriately. The Club ensures that alleged breaches of the Code, including rumours, are not ignored and are dealt with appropriately.

Minor breaches involving players can be dealt first by the coaches responsible by speaking directly with them.

If the behaviour from a player continues or severity of the breach is considered more than minor, the coach will refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee in its investigation by notifying the Vice Chairperson.

Breaches involving individuals connected to the Club other than players are dealt by the Disciplinary Committee following notification to the Vice Chairperson.

Disciplinary Committee

When a matter is referred to a Disciplinary Committee, the Club Chairperson will name three members to sit on that Committee.

The Club Chairperson chairs any meeting for individuals over the age of 18 and the Juvenile Chair those when the individual involved is under the age of 18.

The Disciplinary Committee will follow the procedures set out by the applicable association (GAA, LGFA or Camogie) in effect at the time the alleged breach occurred. The Disciplinary Committee will notify the individual subject of the alleged breach of the initiation of a disciplinary process, the basis of the breach, and any other relevant information. If a hearing is held, the Disciplinary Committee will give timely notice of the date and venue of hearing and advise them of their right to present evidence on their own behalf and to ask questions.

Sanctions

The Disciplinary Committee can issue the following sanctions to players, parents and guardians, coaches, referees/officials, volunteers and other persons connected to the Club

- A verbal caution, a warning as to future conduct, or a reprimand.
- A written caution, a warning as to future conduct, or a reprimand.
- The banning from coaching
- The banning from attending games, trainings or gatherings.
- The suspension or expulsion, in part or in full, of a player or person for such period as may be deemed appropriate.
- Such other penalty or sanction as may be deemed appropriate.

In addition, the applicable association (GAA, LGFA or Camogie) or their county board may also impose their own sanction pursuant to their own policies and procedures.

Any sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee only apply to the Club.

Any sanction imposed will commence from the day following the receipt by the individual concerned of the written decision by the Disciplinary Committee.

Appeal to the County board process

Individuals who do not accept the decision from the Disciplinary Committee they can appeal in writing to the relevant County Hearing Committee through the Dublin County Board within seven days of being notified of the decision.

Record keeping

All documents relating to investigations will be passed to the Club Secretary for archiving in a secure manner, i.e. restricted access., and comply with GDPR and other applicable legal requirements.

Once a disciplinary process is complete in respect to an alleged breach, members of the Disciplinary Committee must dispose of all copies of documents related to the investigation they had kept on paper or on their personal computers, email account or cloud-storage device.

For more information

Reference Documents

[GAA Code of Conduct](#)

[LGFA Code of Behaviour](#)

[Camogie Code of Behaviour](#)

[GAA Official Guide Part I containing the Constitution and Rules of the GAA](#)

[GAA Official Guide Part II](#)

[LGFA Official Guide](#)

[Official Rules of the Camogie Association](#)

[Ranelagh Gaels Club Constitution](#)

[Ranelagh Gaels Disputes and Complaints Resolution Process](#)

Approved by the Executive Committee in July 2024

