



Child Protection and Welfare Policy **Belcoo O'Rahilly's GFC Club**

Policy Statement

We at Belcoo O'Rahilly's aim to promote the participation of children / young people in our club by creating a culture/ethos of inclusion, fair play, equality, safety and fun.

Children/young people have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them. (Article 19: UN Convention on the rights of the child)

All children's/ young persons sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play.

The European Code of sports ethics defines fair play as:

"much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal) exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption"(European sports charter and code of ethnics, council of Europe , 1993)

The Children (NI) Order (1995) is based on clear and consistent set of principles designed with the common aim of promoting the welfare of children. Children have the right to be safe. All coaches should ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedent over all other considerations.

Belcoo O'Rahilly's will endeavour to achieve these aims by ensuring the following;

- Awareness of the issues which lead to children being harmed
- Safe recruitment procedures for coaches/mentors involved with children (children defined as u 18 years)to include consideration to children/adult ratios , gender appropriateness particularly in relation to mixed gender teams where possible .
- Access NI vetting for all appointed coaches/mentors in accordance with Ulster Council Policy.
- Adoption of GAA Codes of Behaviour/Conduct.
- Sign up procedure for coaches, parents, children/young people to Codes of Behaviour/Conduct.
- Application of Codes of Behaviour
- Application of good safe Coaching/Playing Practices, to include ;
 - a) Coaching within own age groups
 - b) Age appropriate training/drills
 - c) Regular , Planned Coaching sessions
 - d) Application of team selection Code of Practice
 - i) Commitment

- ii) Age
 - iii) Ability
 - e) Rotation of Team Captaincy
 - f) Rotation of Positions
 - g) Emphasis on Development of all players regardless of ability, gender
 - h) Positivity
 - i) Inclusion
- Provision of first aid training/first aid kits
 - Promotion of Health and Well Being of all children/young people
 - Registration of Players/Children on GAA Servasport

 - Adoption of GAA Child protection policies/procedures to include;
 - a) appointment of Designated officer
 - b) appointment of Children's officer

 - Adoption of GAA Anti Bullying Policy

This policy applies to all those involved in Belcoo O'Rahilly's GFC Club: Coaches, mentors, committee members, volunteers, parents and children (u18 yrs)

The Youth Committee of Belcoo O'Rahilly's GFC commit to ensuring that we and all persons working with children, vulnerable adults within our club follow the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and GAA Code of Behaviour.