

Stratford Grangecon GAA Club



CODE OF BEST PRACTICE/BEHAVIOUR AND JUVENILE INFORMATION BOOKLET

www.stratfordgrangecongaa.ie

Welcome:

As Juvenile Chairperson, I welcome you to our Club and another new playing season and the Club hopes that all involved will have an enjoyable year. As with every year we need your support as parents to help us to run the club but also to support your child/children to enjoy their football/hurling with us. The aim of this club is to improve and increase the skills of all the children. Remember at the end of the day we are a GAA club and these juveniles are the future of our Club.

The back page of the Information Booklet contains the names and contact details for Club personnel.

All positions in the Club are done on a voluntary basis and the Club would hope that parents/guardians would endeavour to support all involved who are giving up their time to give your children the skills of our GAA games, fun and exercise. This includes responding to texts and phone calls about the availability of your child for matches or training.

This booklet contains the following information and it is most important that you take the time to read through this Information Booklet with your child/children.

- The Club's Code of Best Practice/Behaviour
- Information relevant to you as a parent /guardian
- Information about so many happenings in the Club

Coaching:

The Coaching Committee continues under the guidance of the Coaching Co-Ordinator. The role of the Coaching Committee is to support the good work already being done by coaches.

The Club is lucky to have dedicated, committed and experienced coaches and by adding qualifications, the Club is giving all players every chance to be the best they can be.

The Coaching co-ordinator can be contacted on
coachingcoord.sgcgaa@gmail.com

Children's Officer:

Child safety is of the utmost importance to us in the Club and something the Club takes very seriously. The Children's Officer role is to ensure the implementation and promotion of the relevant Child Welfare and Protection Codes, Guidelines and Legislation for good practice in the Club so as to ensure that young people can participate, enjoy and benefit from our gaelic games in a safe and enjoyable surroundings

In the event of a complaint, there is a formal process and a Club Designated Person who is responsible for referring all allegations or suspicions of child abuse to the County Designated Person. It is the County Designated person, having consulted with their Club counterpart, and having established reasonable grounds for concern, who will duly report such concerns to the HSE/or An Garda Síochána. This person works closely with the Children Officer.

Garda Vetting:

Garda vetting is now mandatory within the GAA. This includes everyone who works with young children – including all coaches, mentors, helpers, supervisors, committee, grounds people, etc have to be garda vetted. It is Club policy to get as many parents/guardians garda vetted as possible.

Very important: Completed garda vetting forms are given to the Children's Officer, but please **note confirmation of garda clearance comes back directly to YOU the applicant from GAA Headquarters and you need to give a copy of that clearance letter to the Children's Officer as soon as you receive same.** If you cannot make a copy, give original to the Children's Officer who will make a copy. The Club has to have a record of people who have received garda vetting clearance. Also while you may be garda vetted with another organisation, the GAA require that you obtain garda vetting through the GAA system also.

Code of Ethics:

Again anyone involved in any way with age groups **must complete** a Code of Ethics Course. This is about supporting you as a coach. The Children's Officer will have details on this.

Mouthguards:

BE AWARE A PLAYER IS NOT COVERED UNDER THE PLAYER INJURY SCHEME SHOULD A DENTAL INJURY OCCUR IF HE/SHE IS NOT WEARING A MOUTHGUARD.



All parents should know by now that mouthguards are compulsory at training and at matches. **The Club policy is that no player can take part in a match or training session if they do not have a mouthguard.** The Club understand that it can be difficult for children to get used to wearing them or even bringing them as part of their gear or even keeping them safe and clean. Please explain the importance of this to your child and support your child in the early stages so that it becomes as much a habit as packing boots. And while the coaches do 'check' this, we do need your support as parent/guardian to be vigilant that your child does have his/her mouthguard with them as part of their gear. Remember to put your child's name on the inside of the mouthguard box. **The responsibility for your child to wear his/her mouthguard is yours as the parent/guardian.**

Being on time for training and matches is **very important** and it is **your responsibility** to have children on time for training and games. Also please let mentors know if your child cannot be there. Please reply to texts from mentors as they need to know who is available for matches and training.

Membership: This shows an allegiance to your Club. All juveniles have to be paid up members of the Stratford Grangecon GAA Club. Paid up membership means individuals are covered under the Player Injury Scheme. The Club would also encourage you as a parent/guardian to become a member.

Wearing of Club shorts and socks: All players playing from U8 upwards must wear club shorts and socks for all matches. It creates a sense of pride in players that the team are all wearing the same; it also shows a sense of organization and professionalism. We do need your support with this.

Please reply to texts from coaches:

Information on matches and training will be passed directly to parents by text from coaches/mentors. We do ask that you please respond to the text sent out by the coach. It is important for coaches to know who is attending for training or matches. Please work with us on this. The website and Facebook will also have information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Garden County Development Squads:

We encourage you as parents to encourage your child to get involved in the development squads for the various age groups. It is a great chance for children to develop skills.

See our notice board and web site/Facebook for further details. Squad ages range from U13 up to Minor.

Website: Please access the Club website

www.stratfordgrangecongaa.ie.

We encourage all our parents to use the website or Facebook to find out what is happening in the Club and to keep up to date.

Health & Safety: This is a concern for us all and we ask that you help us ensure our Club house and grounds are safe, especially for our juveniles. We are each responsible for Health and Safety and if you see anything that needs attention please bring to the notice of any of the club officers or mentors.

Medical & Player Welfare: Croke Park's website (gaa.ie/medical-and-player-welfare) has very valuable information on medical and player welfare – you are encouraged to take a look. Concussion is also an area that parents should be aware of. There is also very good information on concussion on various websites.

Open Juvenile Meetings: Open juvenile meetings are held every month or six weeks and we would encourage all to attend. Notice of meetings are texted out and put in the paper or on facebook website. We do need your input to keep improving our facilities for our juveniles.

Training:

Training takes place on a Saturday morning at 11am for age groups academy up to U12. Additional times/days can be added but each coach will inform you of same. The Club encourages parents/guardians/grandparents/relations to attend training and matches. We must encourage and applaud our young players.

If you have a child in the Academy we ask that parent/guardian to stay at the training session – this is in the event of a problem arising with your child.

School Link Coaches:

We continue to work in both Stratford and Grangecon national schools with our School Link Coach. This person works closely with the teachers, pupils and the Club. Are you aware that the Club part sponsor this school link role along with the County Board?

Fundraising – Weekly Lotto:

Our weekly lotto is the only organised source of fundraising for our club so we need your support with the lotto because by buying your lotto ticket you are supporting the Club. We sincerely thank you for your support and ask that you continue to support us in the coming year. To run a GAA Club, even a small one like ours costs in the region of €60,000 to €65,500 per year.

KELLOGGS CUL CAMP

Once again the Club will be hosting a Kelloggs Cul Camp. This camp is run by the County Board. This is a dual camp where children can work on both hurling and football or just decide to go with one code. See flyer for dates.

CLUB GEAR/LEISURE WEAR FOR SALE

Wearing of Club gear is a very visual sign of club identity and pride.

A wide range of club gear/leisure wear is available for sale in the Club House for all ages (including adults) training tops, polo shirts, rain jackets, various types of hoodies, bags, etc all good value.

We would encourage you to remember that it can be an ideal gift for birthdays, Christmas, etc.

Contact Annette for further information on 087 0644241.



USE OF MOBILE PHONES/ VIDEOS/ CAMERAS:

The use of mobile phones/videos/cameras to take photos/images of any juvenile by another in the **dressings rooms is NOT ALLOWED AND is STRICTLY PORHIBITED.**



Please make sure your child is aware of this.

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE/BEHAVIOUR

Please read the Code so that you are aware of what is required from you and your child in 2015 in the Stratford Grange GAA Club.

There will be a 'sign-up' procedure, whereby Young Players agree to abide by this Code of Best Practice/Behaviour and to any other policies or codes in our Club or National Governing Body

You will then be asked to sign confirming you have read same.

Young Players

Young Players can benefit greatly from sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment.

As part of their participation our players must be encouraged to realise that due to their participation in sport they also have a responsibility to treat others with fairness and respect.

With rights there will always be responsibilities.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO:

- Be safe and feel safe.
- Have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment.
- Be treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity.
- Comment and make suggestions in a constructive manner.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Participate in games and competitions at levels with which they feel comfortable.
- Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- Be protected from abuse.
- Be listened to.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ALWAYS:

- Play fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves.
- Respect fellow team members regardless of ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religion beliefs.

- Support fellow team members regardless of whether they do well or not.
- Represent their team, their Club and their family with pride and dignity.
- Respect all coaches, officials and their opponents.
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- Shake hands before and after a game as part of the Give Respect Get Respect initiative, irrespective of the result.
- Inform their Coach/Mentor/Manager in advance if they are unavailable for training and games.
- Take care of Club equipment.
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions they may have.
- Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour and their Club's Code of Discipline as agreed with mentors.
- Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed in any way.

YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD NEVER:

- Cheat – always play by the rules.
- Shout at or argue with a game's official, with their Coach, their team mates or opponents and should never use violence.
- Use unfair or Bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other players.
- Spread rumours.
- Tell lies about adults or other young people.
- Play or train if they feel unwell or are injured.
- Use unacceptable language or racial and/or sectarian references.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to fully participate in Gaelic Games, whether by playing our games or attending training or coaching sessions.

In common with coaches and Club personnel the parents/guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children as they participate in Gaelic Games.

**Please be aware of your expectations as a parent.
Parents should not try and meet their own needs
for success and achievement through their
children's participation.**

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILD TO:

- Respect and abide by the Club's Rules
- Always play by the rules.
- Improve their skills levels.
- Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability.
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to exercise, food, rest and play.
- Advice may be sought if necessary from Club officials on this issue.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD:

- Sign and return the registration/permission and medical consent forms for their child's participation in the Club.
- Inform the coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel, of any changes in their child's medical or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games or other activities.

- **Inform coaches of changes in phone number**
- **Ensure that their child attends on time for coaching sessions/games or other activities.**
- **Provide their child with MOUTHGUARDS and equipment as may be required for the playing of our games including for example helmets, shin guards, etc.**
- **Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.**
- **Show approval whether the team wins, loses or draws a game.**
- **Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in games.**
- **Listen to what their child may have to say.**
- **Never use foul language or harass officials/referee**

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE:

- **Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games.**
- **Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.**
- **Do not exert undue pressure on your child.**
- **Never admonish your own child or any other child for their standard of play.**

- Be realistic in their expectations.
- Show approval for effort, not just results.
- Avoid asking a child or young person, 'How much did you score today' or 'What did you win by' or 'What did you lose by.' Ask them 'Did they enjoy themselves.'
- Never embarrass a child or use sarcastic remarks towards a player.
- Applaud good play from all teams.
- Do not criticise playing performances. Identify how improvements may be made.
- Do not seek to unfairly affect a game or player.
- Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ASSIST OUR CLUB BY:

- Showing appreciation and Respect to volunteers, coaches and Club officials at all times.
- Attending training and games on a regular basis.
- Assisting in the organising of Club activities and events as requested.
- Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.

- Not entering team dressing rooms unless deemed necessary by the team coach(es) so as to protect the privacy of other underage players.
- Respond to coach's texts in relation to match/training attendance.
- Have your child/children on time for training, etc.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Know their child is safe and to make a complaint if they believe that their child's safety is in any way compromised.
- Be informed of problems/concerns relating to their child.
- Be informed if their child gets injured.
- Complain/ discuss if they have concerns about the standard of coaching. **This to be done on a one to one basis with coach/mentor.**
- Have a say in relation to decisions being made within the Club. Can be done through Children's Officer, chat to mentor/coach, attendance at juvenile meetings, which are held throughout the year.

Contact Details

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact No.</i>
Juvenile Chairperson:	Maurice Mangan	087 - 7714781
Juvenile Secretary:	Patrick Byrne	087 - 9163665
Juvenile Treasurer:	Dermot Phelan	086 - 3561152
Juvenile P.R.O.:	John Channing	087 - 2549225
Children's Officer:	Shirley O'Neill	087 - 9439819
Coaching Co-ordinator:	Angus McDonogh	087 - 6848561
Coaching Committee:	Patrick Byrne, Maurice Mangan, Mervyn O' Neill, Annette Mangan, Michael Mangan	
Academy:		
U8:	Paddy McKittrick	087 - 6508453
U10:	Liam Ryan	086 - 8173150
U12:		
U14:	James Barrett	087 - 7679058
U16:	Philip Phelan	087 - 4373870
Minor:	Mervyn O'Neill	087 - 6893306
Club Chairman:	Hugh O'Keeffe	087 - 2596962
Club Secretary:	Mark Byrne	087 - 9127216
Club Treasurer:	Michelle O'Keeffe	087 - 1388669
Club P.R.O.:	Gerard O'Keeffe	087 - 6820162
Registrar/Membership:	Annette Mangan	087 - 0644241