

Cumann Naomh Mhuire



C.L.G. Ard Rathain

ARDRAHAN GAA CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

November 2025

General Code

This Code of Conduct (“the Code”) sets out the basic principles that establish standards of behaviour for all who attend our events or participate in Ardrahan GAA Club, including but not limited to:

- Officers
- Members
- Players
- Parents/Guardians
- Mentors
- Supporters
- Match officials
- Teams

(Collectively “the Club Participants”)

The Code is binding on all Club Participants and participation and/or attendance at Ardrahan GAA Club related events is subject to compliance with the Code. The aim of the Code is to promote and encourage good behaviour and practice by all Club Participants. It aims to promote and encourage a culture of respect and integrity within Ardrahan GAA Club. Club Participants are required to abide by and implement the Code.

The use of particular examples of behaviour shall not restrict the interpretation of the conduct required of Club Participants as set out in the Code.

In respect of any Club Activity, each Club Participant shall:

Respect, courtesy and honesty are required of every member of the club

1. Maintain and demonstrate the highest standards of respect.
2. It is mandatory for all management, coaches and players to pay a Membership / Registration fee to the club. This includes your insurance and affiliation costs for the season. Failure to do so will result in you not being a club member and therefore not being eligible to play or train for your club, manage, coach or select for your club, attend or represent your club at GAA functions or meetings. Parents and supporters are strongly encouraged to become club members.

3. All trainers, coaches and selectors should immediately remove all juvenile players’ individual mobile phone numbers from your own mobile. Contact should only be made through the player’s parents/ guardians as part of group texts.
4. Players, coaches, parents and supporters accept the decisions of all match officials without protest. They will not always be right but neither will you.
5. Players, coaches and supporters maintain emotional and physical control, do not use foul or abusive language or insulting remarks and do not physically or verbally abuse any official, player, spectator or coach from your own or oppositions’ club. Control your temper and do not retaliate.
6. Players, coaches, managers, and supporters if you have a grievance please inform the Secretary of your Club verbally or in writing and your grievance will be dealt in accordance with the appropriate Club policy as decided by the Club Executive at a Club meeting.
7. Players and Coaches please attend all training sessions and matches punctually at the times advised by your coaches. If unable to attend for any reason advise your coach or one of your team selection committee.
8. Coaches, Parents, supporters. PLEASE NOTE, An Garda Síochána have advised the club to remind all drivers that occupants in your car must wear a seat belt at all times and that sitting on windows or leaning out of windows is strictly prohibited and may lead to prosecution.
9. Respect the property, facilities and equipment of your own and opposing clubs.
10. Promote the highest standards of personal conduct and set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.

Playing Code:

1. Ardrahan Players must play fairly, do their best, enjoy themselves and adhere to the playing rules of Hurling and Football at all times.
2. All players are requested to be punctual for both training and games and to be properly attired with the correct playing gear. Helmets are compulsory and gum shields are encouraged at all times.
3. All forms of Photographic equipment i.e. cameras and picture mobile phones are not permitted in the dressing rooms. The chewing of gum and eating of food whilst training or playing a game are forbidden
4. Jewellery must not be worn while training or playing
5. Respect must be shown for your opponents and team-mates. Decisions by officials and referees must be accepted gracefully.
6. Ardrahan players should represent their family and Club with pride, dignity and commitment.
7. Irrespective of the result before and after the game you should shake hands with your opponents, support fellow team members, thank the referee and your coaches.
8. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Code of Conduct – Mentors

1. Do not provide any physical or verbal abuse.
2. Do not spend excessive amounts of time with children away from others.
3. Avoid taking children to your home or do not take children on journeys alone in your car.
4. Coach by example and encourage sportsmanship and fair play on the field of play among players.

5. Ensure that sufficient time and attention is given to players who require more help to develop their talent.
6. Try to ensure that training is an enjoyable experience for the players.
7. Do not put too much emphasis on results.
8. Avoid verbal exchanges with referees or opposing mentors / players.
9. Avoid taking sessions alone.
10. Do not rebuke a child for making a mistake, always encourage.
11. Any manager/mentor/coach/volunteer/ Cúl Camp coach etc. must, in advance of taking any session, be Garda Vetted and have Safeguarding 1 course completed, and have up to date certificates available.

Code of Conduct – Parents and Supporters

1. Always encourage and support your child and other children in their sport.
2. Be familiar with those mentors who are coaching your child.
3. Behave responsibly on the side-line.
4. No verbal or physical abuse is permitted at any time either at games, elsewhere or over the phone or social media.
5. Bring children to and from training on time.
6. Encourage your child to play by the rules.
7. Ensure your child has the proper training/playing gear and water.
8. Support the coaches and help out wherever necessary.
9. Ensure that your child is registered and paid-up.

10. Respect the coaches' decisions and encourage your children to do the same.
11. Show your support for your child/team by attending matches on a regular basis and assisting in the organization of club activities.

Disciplinary Procedures

1. The Coach is responsible for discipline within his/her group and by speaking directly to the player can deal with minor breaches of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) ("Underage Code"); and /or Constitution or this Code or other policies of the Club.
2. Should there be continuous breaches of the Code the coach will advise the parents / guardian.
3. In the case of an underage player up to under seventeen, a serious breach of indiscipline or continuous misbehaviour the Coach or other responsible adult should report the matter to the Club Children's Officer.
4. In the case of an adult, a serious breach of indiscipline or continuous misbehaviour the Coach or other responsible adult should report the matter an Officer of Ardrahan GAA Club who shall refer the matter to the Executive.
5. Should no meaningful solution occur, the Executive will follow Club Constitution and/or policies and procedures may impose a suspension from the club, withdraw membership or in extreme cases choose expulsion. The Executive reserve the right to suspend or expel any individual for a serious breach of the Code of Conduct.
6. This Code has been compiled for the greater good of Ardrahan GAA Club and while you may not totally agree with some aspects we hope you will understand that the clarity it brings will benefit us all in the long run. The Code will be reviewed on an tri-annual basis.

Law and Rules

1. Comply with the law.
2. Comply with the Rules in the GAA Official Guide and GAA Codes, Policies and Procedures.
3. Implement, support and promote the Code.
4. Cooperate with any investigation in respect of an alleged breach of the Code;
5. Cooperate with any investigation into alleged breaches of rules by a Club Participant arising out of an Ardrahan GAA Activity.
6. Submit to the authority of the relevant Committee.



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Mission Statement

The primary role of Ardrahan GAA Club is the promotion and development of Gaelic games as a principal component of Irish identity. In promoting our indigenous games, the Club will continue to build on and develop an ethos of local identity and a sense of place. This will be achieved by encouraging participation from all sectors of the community promoting sportsmanship, discipline and personal development amongst Club members. Ardrahan GAA will continue to value and prosper from the enormous voluntary efforts of its members, players and mentors. The Club being membership based, will be responsive to change in society, and to the wishes of its members who ultimately “own” the Club.

The objective of this Code approved by the Club Executive on 5 November 2025, and agreed by the general body at the club’s AGM on 14 December 2025, is to cover all aspects of our Club from members, officers, management, coaches, selector, mentors, parents, supporters, and players from under five right up to our adult teams. By working together in partnership with clear guidelines and direction, we can develop a strong foundation and structure in our juvenile section which will enable our Club to sell seeds for future success at all levels, both juvenile and adult. One of the main driving forces behind our Club is ensure that we get the maximum number of children playing and more importantly retain their participation from under five up to adult level.

Players are the most important people in sport. Enjoying playing is the most important aspect of sport. Playing to win is fundamental to this but it should not however be a case of winning at all costs. The principles of sportsmanship, fair play and mutual respect amongst players, coaches, official supporters, parents and spectators are primary considerations which also bring responsibility. Your Club wishes to promote best practice in every aspect of the Club and has developed this code particularly to provide members, coaches, management, players, parents and supporters with an understanding that there are consequences for actions. It seeks to ensure that there is no misunderstanding as to what is expected of everyone representing your Club in anyway.

**November
2025**