



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

Policies and Recommended Practice

**Sanctioned at the Juvenile Committee on 7th September 2016 + Executive Committee on
Drafted: 2nd June 2016**

It is intended to be fully compliant with these policies within the next 6 months i.e.31-December-2016



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

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Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

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SECTIONS 1

OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVES

This document has been prepared following discussions with club members, who have coached in our club and who have now reflected on their experiences, Tipperary Coaching and Games personnel. It seeks to draw on best practice across sporting codes.

Club mentors should strive to work well with their own mentor colleagues and with mentors who are involved in all the club sections. Remember that the number one priority is the player. Mentors are reminded that the team you are in charge of is the club's team; how you perform and act will reflect on the club. Be aware, therefore, at all times of the club's policies and protocols and the aims and objectives of the GAA. Remember, consideration, cooperation and communication will solve many problems.

There is a demand among our club mentors to provide clear and unambiguous guidance to all involved in coaching our games. This document seeks to provide such guidance and to provide a framework which future committees can use and adopt in the future.

The document is a "living" paper, it will be reviewed and adapted by the club's Juvenile Committees on a periodic basis as we grow and develop. Any new policies will be first approved by the Juvenile Committee and then considered, agreed or amended by the Executive Committee as appropriate. There is a range of publically available guidance for coaches and mentors. As a club we are guided primarily by the GAA's and Irish Sports Council guidance in coaching Young Persons. This is the source of best practice in the area to which club officers will first refer in the case of any issues.

Accordingly all mentors are required to be familiar with and to always implement this guidance. The guidance is available at the following links

<http://www.gaa.ie/clubzone/child-welfare-and-protection/>

<http://www.gaa.ie/youth-zone/gaa-respect-initiative/>

What is our objective as a club?

Develop a young person's confidence



Teach the skill and create the will (to play our games)



This can be summarised in 1 phrase:

“Play & Stay with the GAA”

Ensure enjoyment for all (players, mentors & supporters)

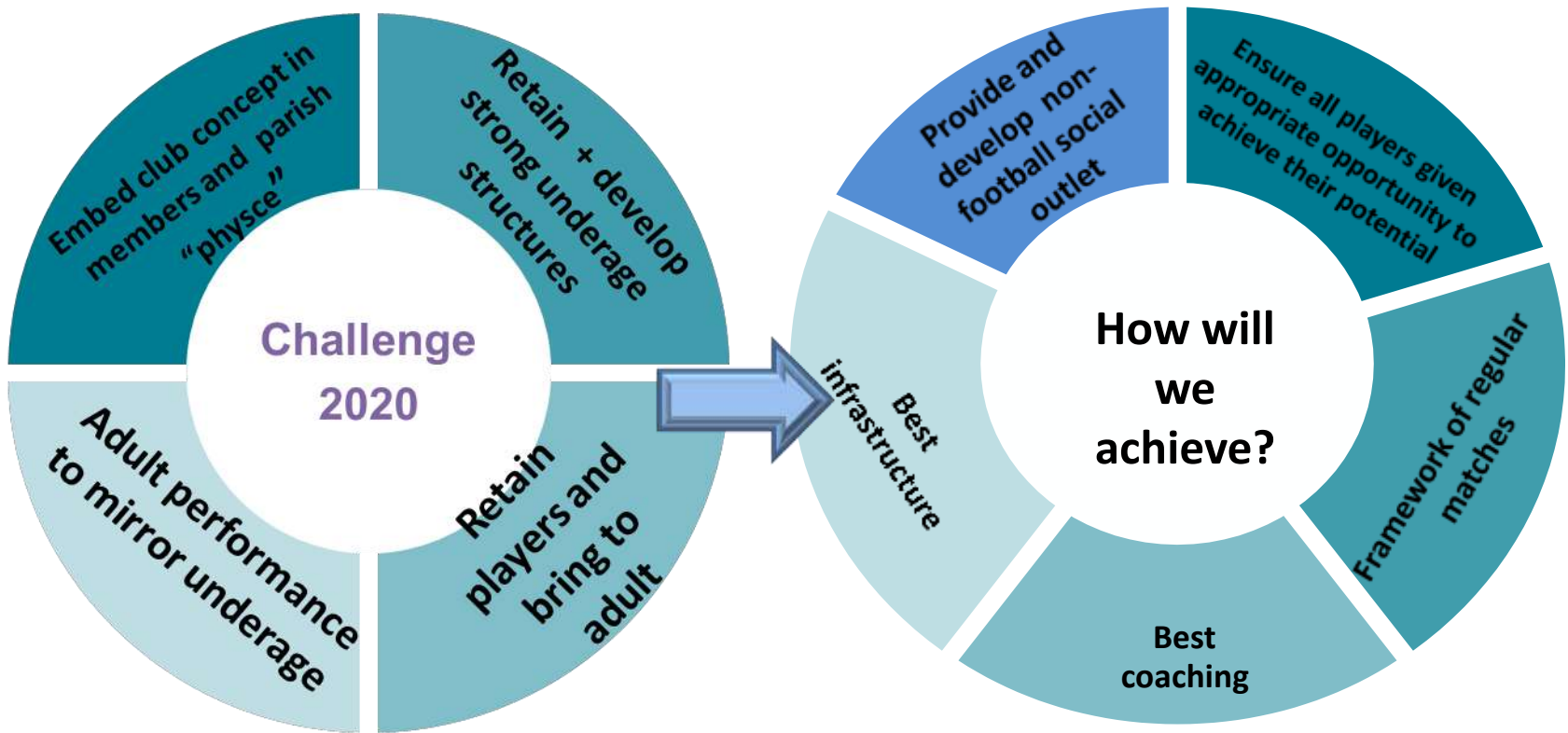


Develop pride in our club and community

JUVENILE UNDERAGE GAELIC GAMES - WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIVES?

No.	How will we achieve this?
1. Every Young Player will be given exposure to our games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support and development of schools programmes • Annual School Visits • Promotion of club with invitation to join the club
2. Every Young Player in our community who wants to play our games will, irrespective of age or development level have a team to play for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target to field a minimum of 2 teams at each age group • Provide development leagues and recreational games to complement existing league structures
3. Life long participation in our games and our club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach and play in a positive manner • Provide structured framework of games at all levels – minimum number of games to be achieved • Develop a “pathway to adult” programme • Encourage Young Player involvement in other aspects of our club (charity events, committee roles, refereeing, recreational games etc)
4. Every Young Player is given appropriate opportunity to develop and fulfil their potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Coaching and positive environment • “Hurling/Football for all” Philosophy no “Star” system. • We must never abandon the Principle of development, enjoyment and retention. • Results will always be secondary to the performance. This principle applies to all Age Groups !
5. Every Young Player has a positive experience of our club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best coaching, framework of games, positive enforcement by coaches at all times

Where do we want to be? How can we deliver on our Objectives?



Delivering on our Objectives

Ensure appropriate opportunity

- No grading in matches up to U10's. Limited and phased grading U10-U12
- Development, enjoyment and retention are our only goals up to u10. Limited competition U10-U12
- At all levels we must never abandon the principle of development, enjoyment and retention. Results must always be secondary to the performance
- Impose age requirements on all teams
- Field 2+ teams in all County Competitions always pushing ourselves to have the maximum number.
- Ensure minimum number of matches for all teams and appropriate mix of matches to meet all development requirements
- Preference should always be given to those that are committed to our club

Framework of regular matches

- Take ownership for own destiny – do not rely on West/County Board (see below re development, regional leagues)
- Ensure minimum number of matches for all teams in appropriate time frame
- Form club owned and administered events as follows:
 - Development leagues
 - Regional leagues
 - Tournaments



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

Delivering on our Objectives

Best Coaching

- All coaches must hold Foundation Level and Code of Conduct certification . All u12+ managers and head coaches should hold Award One.
- Appoint Coaching Officer/Games Director to oversee, guide and administer all aspects of coaching and games
- Coach full range of skills – achieve excellence in all skills
- Small sided games up to u11
- Ensure Rotation of players in development stages (up to u11) and in development matches



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SECTION 2

POLICIES AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICE



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

INTRODUCTION

As outlined on Page 4, the purpose of this section is to provide clear guidance to all mentors in respect of club matters.

The policies and guidance attached should be read in conjunction with the G A A 's official guidance in this area, as

<http://www.gaa.ie/>

- GAA Respect Initiative (Give Respect, Get Respect)
- Players – The Official Guide
- Club – Code of Ethics and Good Practice
- Coaches – Code of Ethics and Good Practice

The links to guidance are outlined in Page 4 of this document.

It should be noted that no policies or guidance can cover every possible scenario. Therefore as a guiding principle, mentors and club officers are asked to always consider whether every action they take meets the Club's overall goals and objectives as outlined on pages 5 & 6 and our plan to deliver on our objectives (pages 7 to 9). These can be summarised by the following slogans:

“PLAY AND STAY WITH THE GAA” and “RESPECT”

- Respect for players, mentors, members, officers, officials – everyone.

If an action does not meet the “Play and Stay with the GAA” or “RESPECT” goals then it should not be taken



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

SECTION 2.1

TEAM MANAGEMENT

AT UNDERAGE COACHING SESSIONS EVERY YOUNG PLAYER IN OUR CARE IS ENTITLED TO:

- **FEEL SAFE AND HAVE FUN**
- **GAIN AND GIVE RESPECT**
- **PARTICIPATE IN SMALL SIDED GAMES TO IMPROVE SKILL DEVELOPMENT**
- **AVOID COMPETITION TOO EARLY AND PRESSURE TO PERFORM**
- **LISTEN AND BE LISTENED TO**
- **LEAVE TRAINING WITH A BIT MORE KNOWLEDGE AND A BETTER PLAYER THAN WHEN THEY CAME**

2.1.1 ROLE OF THE TEAM MENTORS

Training and coaching underage teams is a great privilege and can have huge influence on our young players. When we take on the role of mentor we are also taking on the responsibility to fulfill the guidelines below.

Mentors are **Role Models** – we must promote a positive and health environment in all we do

Mentors for Rosegreen are expected to:

1. Take full responsibility and ownership of their team for designated period of appointment.
2. Ensure that all of the basic skills of hurling & football are delivered in each training session
3. Keep account of all players throughout their appointment as a mentor documenting:
 - a) All contact details, address, medical conditions – to be kept confidential
 - b) Attendance and absenteeism for the period
4. Put players and teams performance above the priority of winning the games. Performance always has priority over Result.
5. Embrace and encourage coaching & skill sessions provided for by the club and all direction and assistance provided by the Coaching Committee
6. Reports back to Juvenile Committee with:
 - a) Match updates
 - b) Monthly team update for the Juvenile Committee
 - c) Any relevant issues with players [within 1 week] to Juvenile Committee
 - d) Any perceived child protection issues to the Child Protection Officer
7. Fully support all fundraising activities
8. Fully support all club directives
9. Fully support the Juvenile Committees in its handling of all issues
10. Manage all equipment supplied by club, accounting and explaining any shrinkage
11. Actively discourage the use of foul language & encourage RESPECT
12. Actively discourage the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco

2.1.2 OUR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU

Rosegreen GAA expects the highest standards in all its mentors. This means excellence, fairness and integrity - excellence in all we do.

2.1.2.a Excellence in coaching

All mentors :

- Must hold a minimum Foundation Level qualification
- All mentors at u12 and above should hold minimum Award 1 ("old level 1) standard
- Should attend 1 conference/course annually.
- Put welfare of Young Players first
- Be punctual, properly attired and lead by examples during all matches and training sessions.
- Ensure adequate preparation and planning for each coaching session and that the necessary equipment is available.
- Recognise development needs and takes development action

2.1.2.b Excellence in integrity

All mentors must:

- Be fully paid up members of Rosegreen GAA
- Agree with and have signed the club Code of Ethics
- Attend a code of conduct/ethics course. For avoidance of doubt – this is mandatory to all club mentors.
- Be Garda Vetted
- Never involve players in their personal life (visits to coaches homes or overnight stays)
- Never be alone with a young player
- Never divulge any confidential information learned about a young player

2.1.2 OUR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU (cont.)

2.1.2.c In the way we conduct ourselves

- We do not accept foul, abusive or threatening language or physical violence .This includes physical contact with players, other mentors, members, supporters or opposition and damage to any property (our club's or otherwise).
- Encourage respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other mentors

2.1.2.d To be a Positive Influence

- Above all our coaches touch and shape the lives of all our players. We also coach and play in a POSITIVE MANNER. We never coach or play in the negative. We positively reinforce in all we do
- Be conscious of the development of young players and ensure that they are matched on an individual or team basis.
- Set realistic goals for each individual player based upon their abilities.
- Never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing. Avoid sarcasm or flippant remarks about players
- Praise and reinforce effort and commitment.
- Avoid the “Star System “– every Young Player deserves equal time and attention
- As a coach/mentor, not be preoccupied with winning.

2.1.2.e Use of Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco

- Mentors should never ever drink, smoke or take drugs in the presence of young players
- Mentors who take responsibility for a team whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be immediately removed from their position .

2.1.2.f Fully support club Directives and abide by determinations made by the relevant club Committees

2.1.3 PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Team Managers and their management team will be appointed annually prior to the **1st February** of the year before commencement of the campaign. In this regard you should note that;

2.1.3.a Prospective managers/management teams should be ‘Invited by Application’

2.1.3.b Preferred managers will be proposed to and approved by the Juvenile Committee. No management team is appointed until fully ratified.

2.1.3.c In conjunction with the Juvenile Committee appropriate goals will be set each year and reviewed periodically and at the end of the season

2.1.3.d The Juvenile Committee will review the appointment of Management Teams throughout the year.

2.1.4 MANAGEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE

2.1.4.a There should be a minimum of 3 mentors appointed to be in charge of a team – preferably including at least 1 female mentor upto U-12s. 1 mentor to act as team manager and 2 as selectors. All 3 must be pre-approved by the Juvenile Committee

2.1.4.b There should always be a minimum 2 mentors present at each match or training session.. This may involve co-opting a parent or another club member to assist at any time at any given training session and match day. Preferably those present should include at least one female adult upto U12 age. Managers must ensure that these persons are Garda Vetted.

2.1.4.c Every age group must appoint at least 1 Administrator. It is the Administrator's role to:

a) Confirm player memberships

b) Contact all parents / guardians of players re matches and informed of the starting and finishing times of all training sessions/matches.

c) Prepare match updates

d) Administer any injury reports where the referee is not aware of injury

e) Ensure All players are paid members and registered with GAA.

f) Be aware of any child with illness/difficulties etc.

2.1.4.d Players who are not registered are **NOT INSURED** to train or to play. Players must register by March 31st each year. This rule must be strictly enforced in 2017. Introductory members are **not** covered by the club for insurance purposes but parents should check with their schools or personal insurance policies as your child may be covered for sports within these policies.



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

SECTION 2.2

GAMES POLICIES

2.2.1 AGE GROUPS

To protect the well being of our young players all players must play and train for the team of their birth date. The allegiance of players should firstly be to their own year group.

2.2.1.a All teams up to and including u10 should only comprise players in their last year in that age group

AGE GROUP 2017

- Under 8
- Under 9
- Under 10

AGE CRITERIA (Player birth year)

Born in 2009
Born in 2008
Born in 2007

2.2.1.b Players from u11 up can play one Age Group ahead. Please see section 2.2.3 on 'Playing Up' for players

AGE GROUP 2017

- Under 12 Born in 2006 & 2005
- Under 14 Born in 2004 & 2003
- Under 16 Born in 2002 & 2001
-

AGE GROUP

Under 11 Born in 2007 & 2006
Under 13 Born in 2005 & 2004
Under 15 Born in 2003 & 2002
Minors Born in 1999 & 2000

- Our Policies and Goals are to **“PLAY & STAY within the GAA”** and adherence to **“GIVE RESPECT, GET RESPECT”**
- Our Objectives are:
 - To ensure every young player is given appropriate opportunity to develop and fulfill their potential
 - Coach and play in a positive environment and have a positive experience of our club
 - 'Hurling/Football for All' philosophy – no 'Star' system - **Results will always be Secondary to the Performance.**
 - Life long participation in our club – adhere to the principal of Development, Enjoyment and Retention

2.2.1 AGE GROUPS (cont.)

- Our Aim is to:
 - Field two teams at each Age Group
 - Team A will play in a higher division and Team B in a lower division. This supports our principle of 'Hurling/Football for All' and ensures teams of similar ability can remain competitive.

2.2.1.c Teams will be selected at the beginning of each competition based on :
 (a) Ability,
 (b) player performance during the prior
 competition
 (c) Attendance at training & matches (commitment to the club)

2.2.1.d Mentors must maintain attendance records as evidence to support selection criteria

2.2.1.e At the start of each season the Mentors from both teams within the same age group must clearly communicate to all players and parents / guardians of their team, the selection criteria

2.2.1.f The preferred panel size for a 11-aside team is 13 players and for a 15-aside team is 20 players.

2.2.1.g Mentors for both teams must collectively work together prior to the start of the season to establish balanced teams , based on the selection criteria i.e. based on attendance and performance. This will ensure that a defined group of players and team size is established which supports our principal of 'Hurling/Football for All' and ensure the club can field competitive teams suitable for their level of competition

2.2.1.h The juvenile Chairman or a nominated representative should attend meetings determining these panels.

2.2.2 'PLAYING UP' POLICY

- For clarity – 'Playing Up' refers to participation of players on teams **NOT** within their own Age Group
- At times it may be necessary to supplement a team with a player from a younger team ('playing up'); e.g. an under-12 player plays with an under-14 team for games.
- While it may be necessary, such 'playing up' can demotivate weaker players to the point where they will eventually give up playing if, for example a player who is '**on the age**' is continuously displaced by players from a younger team. This goes against our club policy of 'Play & Stay with the GAA'.
- This policy is intended to be clear, consistent and fair and designed to foster both weak and strong players.
- The club policy discourages 'playing up' , but allows it where players are needed to make up a team for games only. 'Playing up' should not deprive players who are 'on the age ' of a game.
- The club policy on 'playing up' is set out overleaf. Only the J u v e n i l e C o m m i t t e e may sanction exceptions to this policy.

2.2.2 'PLAYING UP' POLICY

Playing Up Policy

- 2.2.2.a** Players must be selected from the team directly below. **Players cannot be selected from teams two Age Groups below e.g. an u12 player selected to play with an u16 team**
- 2.2.2.b** In team selection, preference must be given to players who are 'on the age'. If substitutes are available then players who are 'on the age' should play at least half the game.
- 2.2.2.c** Selectors may deviate from this policy if there is good reason not to select a player, other than the player's ability (**e.g. indiscipline or poor attendance at training**). In such cases, the player should be informed why he/she is not being selected.
- 2.2.2.d** Mentors must maintain an Attendance record for their tool to provide transparency and rationale for evidencing decisions and aiding dispute resolution.
- 2.2.2.e** If a player is selected to play up she/he must continue to train and play with her own age group. Any player who is playing with the older age group and does not make themselves available to their own team will be suspended from playing for the older age group
- 2.2.2.f** When a team needs a player to play up, the coach must seek permission of the coach of the younger team to provide a player. The coach of the younger team decides which of the team is offered the chance to play up and is responsible for communicating the offer to the parents of the player involved.
- 2.2.2.g** It is recommended that the selection of players to 'play up' should follow the following guidelines:
- i. The coach must consult with the coaches of other teams in order to select a player.
 - ii. It is preferable to rotate the chance to 'play up' amongst players of the younger team. Players selected to play up should be capable of competing at the higher age group.

2.2.3 **TEAM SELECTION GUIDELINES FOR MANAGERS**

- It is club policy that all players should be provided with an equal opportunity to play games regardless of ability.
- Players should not be discriminated against
- Mentors children should not be unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged. Team selectors should make impartial decisions.
- Our policy is to **“PLAY & STAY within the GAA”** and adherence to our **“GIVE RESPECT, GET RESPECT”** goal

2.2.3 **TEAM SELECTION GUIDELINES FOR MANAGERS (cont.)**

Team Selection Policy

- 2.2.3.a** In selecting teams, managers must give preference to players who are most committed to our club . This is irrespective of the ability of the player. Commitment to our club is indicated by a number of factors including :
- a) Regular attendance at training & matches
 - b) Participates in club events
 - c) Replies to communications from management and club
 - d) Fully paid-up club member
- 2.2.3.b** Managers must always give preference to those who regularly attend training over those who do not irrespective of their ability. The club accepts that it is not possible for players to attend all training sessions and that there may be mitigating circumstances. Accordingly some manager discretion may be exercised. However, team managers should be conscious of the impact that playing those who do not regularly attend training over those who do not, can have on a young person’s feelings, the dynamic of our club and our public profile. To provide guidance, it is recommended that coaches do not select players who miss on average more than one in every three training sessions. A manager may impose more strenuous requirements. The club will support any manager who imposes a more strenuous requirement.
- 2.2.3.c** As a club we welcome players of all backgrounds, development stages and objectives. It is intended that multiple teams will be fielded at all levels. Therefore players who cannot give full commitment to our club, but who enjoy our games are nonetheless extremely welcome and we will try to ensure they have a team to play with. However, the practical impact of this is that those who cannot commit to our club will not play 1st Team hurling/football
- 2.2.3.d** Players who do not respond to communication should not be selected. Mentors should notify all parents of this issue. The club will fully support any manager on this issue.
- 2.2.3.e** Managers must never play any player who has not paid their membership. A player who is not a paid up member will not be insured. However the club is aware that this may be difficult on some families and will work with everyone in this regard. Anyone with genuine financial difficulties can speak to the club in absolute confidence. For avoidance of doubt – Rosegreen GAA does not prohibit any child with genuine financial difficulties from playing with it

2.2.4 GAMES POLICY DISPUTES & COMPLAINTS

- Perceived breach of Games Policy should be reported to **Games Committee Chairperson** who should follow the following process. This procedure relates only to breach of 'Games Policy', not to breaches of Code of Ethics and Good Practice.

STAGE 1

- 2.2.4.a** The Games Committee Chairperson will notify the Mentor / Player /Parent / Guardian against whom the complaint has been made and meet with them. Every effort will be made to resolve the problem at this level.

STAGE 2

- 2.2.4.b** Failing a satisfactory outcome from stage 1, the perceived breach will be reported to the Chairperson of the Juvenile Committee, and the **Juvenile Committee Hearings Board**. The Board will comprise of 2 members of the **Juvenile Committee**, nominated by the Chairperson.
- 2.2.4.c** The **Juvenile Committee Hearings Board**, having received a written report from the Games Committee Chairperson, will meet with the person against whom a complaint has been made and attempt to resolve the problem.
- 2.2.4.d** The **Juvenile Committee Hearings Board** will determine whether there has been any breach in the club **Games Policy** and determine a path forward and whether any sanctions should apply. Any sanctions must be ratified by the club's Juvenile and Executive Committee.
- 2.2.4.e** The **Juvenile Committee Hearings Board** will record minutes of all meetings with the person against whom a complaint has been made and furnish a written report of procedures followed, conclusions, and recommendations or any actions to be taken.
- 2.2.4.f** The written report will be signed by all members of the **Juvenile Committee Hearings Board**.
- 2.2.4.g** All parties to the complaint will receive a copy of the Hearing Committee's conclusions and a copy should be provided to the Juvenile and Executive Committee.

2.2.5 GAMES

The provision of a programme of regular games, spread evenly across a season is critical to the development, retention and enjoyment of players of our games. The recommended (minimum) number of games for each age groups from the GAA is 16. This is sourced from the GAA's Urbanisation Committee. Team managers are encouraged to organise more matches than 16.

The following leagues/Competitions are currently available to teams:

- U10 Go Games Blitzes, West E/F Competitions
 - U11 Garda Cup
 - U12 League
 - U13 Garda Cup
 - U14 Leagues
 - U16 Leagues
 - Minor Championship
-
- In the club's view, mere participation in West Tipperary leagues and Championships will not provide sufficient opportunity to meet our objectives of developing players, retaining and enjoyment. Accordingly each manager is required to ensure adequate development of their players this should be achieved by:
 1. Formation and participation in "development" leagues to ensure players are given adequate time and opportunity to develop
 2. Formation and participation in competitive leagues/tournaments
 3. Regular friendly matches where players are given FULL matches and encouraged to develop their existing and new skills



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

SECTION 2.3

DEVELOPMENT POLICIES RELEVANT TO

VARIOUS STAGES



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

Stages

Foundation 6 - 9

- Large numbers
- Partaking in lots of activities
- Preferences not formed - enjoyment, parents and friends are biggest influence
- Enjoyment is what participant wants
- Typically not aware of Stars of the game/or importance of some matches

Development 10 - 11

- Preferences beginning to form
- Competitive instincts forming
- Players maturing and face a range of social and personal challenges
- Parental influences less important and parents begin to drift away

Transitional 12 - minor

- Concentration on much reduced number of activities
- Competitiveness has formed
- Facing significant personal challenges
- Little parental influences
- Education (exams, gaelthacht)

Adult 18 +

- Preferences formed
- Can be away from home
- Education & career development

The guidance pages 2.3.1 to 2.3.2 should be read in conjunction with general guidance set out in Section 2.2

2.3.1 THE DEVELOPMENT STAGE (u10 -> u11)

It is recognised that competitive instincts develop at this level and that players are conscious of who is winning and losing. The club recognises that “light” competition is appropriate at this level but coaches must keep the principle of “Development, Retention and Enjoyment to mind and not adopt a “winning is all important”/ “win at all costs” approach. Always remember our goals of “Play and Stay with the GAA” and “RESPECT”.

With this in mind, the following are the club policies:

- **COMPETITIVE BLITZES /Tournaments-** It is appropriate to adopt the rules of the competition in place. Mentors should ensure that the hosting club has full approval for the event before partaking. Otherwise our players are not covered by insurance

Selection of teams based on development level is appropriate but in doing so, the guidance re selection of players should be followed (training etc). Ideally we should not travel to a competitive blitz unless all players in that age group are catered for. For example, 2 teams may be taken to play in an “A” and “B” competition. If it is not possible to take 2 or more teams then a team manager must consider whether it is appropriate to take only 1 team to the exclusion of other players and consider the impact that this has on team morale, a player’s feelings and our profile and obtain prior approval from the underage committee. Communication and parental relationships are critical in this scenario. In the event that a decision is taken to only take one team then the club expects the team mentor to organise an appropriate event for any player not attending that day

- **DEVELOPMENT LEAGUES** - It is appropriate to adopt the rules of the league in place and spirit but manager should use these to develop the full range of skills in a player and not accumulate trophies or wins.

2.3.2 THE TRANSITIONAL STAGE (u12 -> minor)

It is recognised that at this level, competition becomes more important. With this in mind, mentors may “grade” teams depending on player ability but must ensure that team selection is done in conjunction with the general guidance set out in section 2.2.

- It is the goal of this club that we will have a minimum of 2 teams at each age group.
- Each team should have its own mentors (again a minimum of 3).
- Mentors on both teams work closely together and at all times work with each other – we are a single club – not different teams.
- Mentors from each squad should consult with each other and if possible should train together. It is accepted that this may be difficult to achieve and the club will be guided by mentors views and will agree with each mentor on a case by case basis..
- Players from a development squad have a clear path to the stronger team and stronger team mentors should attend development team games.
- Fair programme of matches for both teams & codes.



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

SECTION 2.4

POLICIES RELEVANT TO PLAYERS



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

2.4.1 EXPECTATIONS OF PLAYERS

Rosegreen GAA expects the very highest standards of all its players. Players are expected to:

1. Make every effort to attend training and matches
2. Give 100% of yourself in every training session and match
3. Always listen to and act on Mentor instructions
4. Insist on fair play and respect for opponents, officials, club officers and mentors.
5. Ensure that players and mentors are aware that cheating or bullying behaviour will not be tolerated
6. Ensure teams have appropriate kit at all times
7. Wears club kit to training and matches
8. Embrace coach's feedback
9. Be paid up member of Rosegreen GAA
10. Fully support all fundraising activities
11. Fully support all club directives
12. Fully support the Underage Committees in its handling of all issues
13. Not partake in the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco
14. Always respond immediately to correspondence from your coach

2.4.2 USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

- The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco is prohibited and never tolerated. Any player using or under the influence of these on club grounds or in club attire will be immediately suspended and attend a counselling session organised by the club or privately. Term of suspension to be decided by Underage and Executive Committee
- The above will also apply where any player is seen using drugs, alcohol and tobacco by the relevant team mentor outside of club grounds or not in club attire
- In the event that any Young Player who is seen using drugs, alcohol or tobacco by any other member, then the Young Player in question shall meet with an appropriate club committee member. Appropriate action in consultation with the Young Player's parents will be taken



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

SECTION 2.5 FACILITIES



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

2.5.1 PITCH SCHEDULING

There is significant demand on our grounds. Communication and co-operation is essential to ensure that all needs are met with this in mind, the following are relevant:

- Official county board/tournament matches always have priority over training and friendly matches.
- In case of clash, the pitch coordinators decision is FINAL. Pitch coordinator will take cognisance of all factors before giving all clear to fixtures or training and in dealing with all fixture clashes.
- Full co-operation of all mentors is essential. Mentors should be sensitive and respectful to the needs and requirements of other mentors.



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

SECTION 2.6

FINANCIAL



Rosegreen Juvenile GAA Club 2016

2.6.1 MEMBERSHIP

- The responsibility for collection of membership rests with each team administrator. Failure to register and collect membership has serious insurance and welfare risks. Therefore it is club policy that **NO** player can play for the club unless they are a paid up member. However the club is aware that this may be difficult on some families and will work with everyone in this regard. Anyone with genuine financial difficulties can speak to the club in absolute confidence. For avoidance of doubt – Rosegreen GAA does not prohibit any child with genuine financial difficulties from playing with it.
- Club is conscious of current economic circumstances but also aware that it is the best value local sporting group. All genuine cases of hardship will be treated sensitively and in confidence and the club will work with all those affected by economic hardship. Early communication is essential to avoid embarrassment.

2.6.2 INSURANCE

- Matches:
 - ✓ All matches not under the auspices of the West Board/County Board to be notified in writing to club secretary who will arrange to forward to West Board.
 - ✓ West Board will ONLY accept communication from club secretary. Any other communication is invalid.
 - ✓ Failure to notify West Board renders the match void and outside the coverage of GAA insurance.
 - ✓ Notice to the club secretary should detail age group, opponents, venue, throw in time and referee.
 - ✓ RECOMMENDED APPROACH: as soon as a match is a possibility then notice should be given immediately.



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2.6.2 **INSURANCE (cont.)**

- Trips
 - ✓ One month's notice to club secretary . Trips must be pre-approved by Juvenile Committee.
 - ✓ Secretary will arrange to forward to West Board. West Board will ONLY accept communication from the club secretary. Any other communication is invalid
 - ✓ Consideration of appropriate outside insurance
 - ☐ All juvenile matches must be informed to juvenile secretary stating date, time & referee so as to inform west board.

2.6.3 **PHYSIO**

- ✓ Club will NOT reimburse physio bills that have not been pre-approved by the Juvenile Committee & Executive and/ or that have not been authorised by a GP
- ✓ POLICY:
 - Guardian must notify mentor immediately on becoming aware of injury
 - Guardian must seek medical referral to physio and medical diagnosis
 - Mentor must contact club secretary within 24 hours. It will then be raised with Committee without delay
 - Mentor has NO AUTHORITY to approve physio referral
 - Failure to follow the above will render any bills void and they will NOT be reimbursed by the club



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SECTION 2.7

PROTECTION OF YOUNG PLAYERS



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2.7.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

- All players must have signed. Code must be signed at payment of membership. Team administrator responsible for collection of completed Codes.
- Emphasis on supporter and parental code of conduct and absolute respect for referee. Executive will take a very dim view of all breaches in this area. Matter will be reviewed in quarterly one to one meetings with each team manager.
- All parents will be issued with a copy of the Code of Conduct and a list of the club's expectations from them on an annual basis.
- All Mentors must be ULTRA familiar with provisions of the code and with the Guidelines of Best Practice for Coaches and Mentors (www.gaa.ie). Mentors must follow best practice guidelines as set out in this document at all times. It is mandatory for all mentors to have completed the Code of Conduct Course.



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2.7.2 GENERAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Experience indicates that almost all disputes arise due to miscommunication or a break down in communication. Early intervention will often diffuse any issue
- Please see Section 2.2.4 for Games Policy Disputes & Complaints

Policy:

- ✓ Mentors should contact the Juvenile Chairman, Juvenile Secretary, Executive Chairman or Executive Secretary immediately upon feeling that an issue could arise
- ✓ Mentors should document all incidents in writing as they happen,.
- ✓ In a dispute that cannot be dealt with directly between mentor and affected party then mentor should refer affected party to Juvenile Or Executive Chairman, Juvenile Secretary or Executive Secretary within 24 hours explaining the issues in detail
- ✓ Club Executive will consider all aspects and meet with all parties either individually or as a group within 7 days of issue becoming aware of a referral
- ✓ Code of Conduct and Guidelines for Best Practice will be followed and used as a guide in considering all issues



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SECTION 2.8 COMMUNICATION

2.8.1 COMMUNICATION WITH PLAYERS

Policy:

- Master fixture list to be given to all guardians once available (subject to necessary disclaimers)
- 1 week notice (minimum) for all games
- Communication should never be sent directly to an underage player. All communication should be to the Young Player’s Guardian.
- Juvenile secretary to be copied on all communications
- Guardians should be advised that failure to communicate availability can lead to non-selection

2.8.2 PUBLIC PROFILE

- Be aware of the RESPECT Initiative
- NEVER use language should as “slaughtered, hammered, trimmed, massacred” – replace with “Big win”.
- NEVER single out an individual player
- ALWAYS: be simple, bear audience in mind, name whole team, praise all players
- ALWAYS question, what impression will this give of our club and how will it make opposition and future opponents feel.
- All players should be encouraged to use their own personal water bottle.
- Valuables should never ever be left in dressing rooms
- As per the Juvenile Code of Conduct /Child Welfare policy the use of mobile phones with cameras is prohibited in the dressing rooms by any person - players, mentors, parents or other.



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SECTION 2.9

MATCH DAY REGULATIONS



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2.9.1 MATCH DAY REGULATIONS

POLICY

- Pitch should be set up for use on the eve of a match where appropriate – in any event, pitch should be laid out appropriately at least 30 minutes before a match
- Ensure First Aid kit up to date and appropriate First Aid resource available
- All players should arrive at match venue no later than 30 minutes before throw in. Failure to do so can result in them not being selected
- All players to wear appropriate socks and shorts on the day



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SECTION 2.10 MISCELLANEOUS



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LEADERS OF YOUNG PERSONS IN SPORT

Leaders in Young Players sport should strive to create a positive environment for the Young Players in their care. We must ensure a positive and healthy experience in all we do.

We should set realistic goals for the participants and not “push” young persons

Leaders have the Young Player’s safety and enjoyment as their first priority

Leaders are role models



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Why do young persons leave sport?





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