

**GIVE
RESPECT
GET
RESPECT**
Our games. Our choice.

**WE ALL BELONG HERE
IN THIS PLACE. AT THIS TIME**
WE BELONG NOT BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE OR WHERE WE COME FROM
BEING HERE MEANS BELONGING
BELONGING MEANS KNOWING YOU'RE PART OF A COMMUNITY
**A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A PLACE FOR ALL
WHERE POTENTIAL IS NURTURED
WHERE INDIVIDUALS BECOME TEAMS
WHO HONOUR THE LEGACY OF THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE
AND STRIVE TO BUILD A LEGACY OF THEIR OWN**
SOME OF US PLAY
SOME OF US USED TO PLAY. SOME OF US NEVER PLAYED
WE ALL BELONG
BELONGING MEANS HAVING A VOICE
MEANS BEING ABLE TO SAY WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT
BEING LISTENED TO
BELONGING MEANS RESPECTING EACH OTHER
MEANS BEING THERE FOR EACH OTHER
ON THE PITCH. OFF THE PITCH
BELONGING MEANS ROLLING OUR SLEEVES UP AND DOING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE
WE ALL BELONG WHETHER IT'S OUR FIRST DAY OR OUR HUNDRETH YEAR
WE ALL BELONG HERE BECAUSE THIS PLACE BELONGS TO US ALL



OUR GAA
WHERE WE ALL BELONG



Meath GAA wishes to put on record its disgust at the personal abuse aimed at our members in recent times.

Unfortunately, this has become a regular occurrence that persons representing Meath GAA are being abused whilst representing our organisation.

We welcome and encourage our members to engage in meaningful conversations on our social media channels. However, this can never escalate into abusive behaviour directed at individuals.

We understand the frustration that supporters feel when our teams do not perform to the level that we all feel they should. This frustration is felt most by the team itself. True supporters will support our teams when it is not easy to do so.

Anyone that resorts to abusive behaviour is not putting the interests of Meath GAA to the forefront. Indeed, we would question their true intentions and if they are supporters at all.

Finally, we ask all our members and supporters to focus on the future of Meath Gaelic games and support all our teams in the coming years.

Ciarán Flynn

Meath GAA County Public Relations Officer

03. PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Our Associations constantly seek the active participation of all parents and guardians, particularly at Club level, where the ethos of volunteerism forms the basis of our community led Clubs and also enables us to promote and participate in many other community based endeavours.

In common with coaches and club personnel the parents/guardians of underage players should act as role models for their children and are welcome to attend their child's training activities and games.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILD TO:

- Always play by the rules.
- Improve their skills levels.
- Appreciate everybody on their team and their opponents, regardless of ability.
- Respect and appreciate the contribution made by their coaches towards developing players and teams.
- 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 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:

- Complete through Foireann or on the Child/Youth Membership Form the annual registration/permission and medical consent information 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.
- Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions/games or other activities.
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required for the playing of our games including for example helmets, shin guards, gum shields etc.

- Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- Never encourage their child to consume non-prescribed drugs or take performance enhancing supplements.
- Listen to what their child may have to say.
- 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.
- Raise any issues or concerns they may have regarding their child's participation or performance in a team with the team coach(es) and should do so in a constructive and non-confrontational manner and not in the company or vicinity of young players or other parents.
- Bring complaints about the conduct or practice of a coach to the attention of the relevant Club or County Children's Officer.
- Support your Club by becoming an active member and by participating in Club activities.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ASSIST THEIR CLUB BY:

- Showing appreciation to volunteers, coaches and Club officials.
- 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 all players.

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 or becomes unwell.
- Complain to the relevant persons if they have concerns about the standard of coaching.
- Have, as a member, a say in relation to decisions being made within the Club.



04. SUPPORTERS

Young Players are eager to enjoy and benefit from the support they receive from parents, guardians, friends and other members of the Club who attend our games as supporters of the team and Club. Active, loyal and well behaved supporters add to the enjoyment of our games and are always welcome to attend our games but should be aware that their conduct will always reflect upon the team, players and Clubs that they support and represent.

Fellow supporters have a responsibility to ensure that all spectators conduct themselves in an acceptable and well behaved manner at all times, when attending our games and competitions or indeed before or after our games. Unacceptable conduct by supporters should be reported to stewards or officials in charge (if appropriate) or at Club level to the Children's Officer.

Supporters should realise and consider that young players are encouraged to participate in Gaelic Games so that they may enjoy themselves while also improving their skills levels.

WE EXPECT OUR SUPPORTERS TO:

- Encourage and applaud good performance and effort from players and opponents alike, regardless of the result.
- Never engage in the use of violence, on their own or with others.
- Demonstrate appropriate good behaviour by not using foul language, and by not engaging in racially abusive language or deeds or by harassing players, supporters, coaches or officials.
- Never enter the field of play, before, during or after a game.
- Respect the decisions of all officials.
- Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during games or competitions.
- Show respect to your Club's opponents. Without them there would be no games or competitions.
- Uphold the principles of FAIR PLAY and RESPECT for all.