

**Guidelines Code of Conduct**

**For**

**Juvenile Mentors & Parents**

**of**

**Boys Hurling and Football**

**2013**

**Naomh Mearnog**



**Naomh Mearnog  
Guidelines for Juvenile Mentors**

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# **1. SECTION 1**

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## **1.1. INTRODUCTION**

This document is designed to ensure that all those involved in Juvenile Games in Naomh Mearnog act in a manner consistent with the ethos of the club and also to provide information on the practicalities involved. It is essential that all mentors in particular familiarize themselves with the contents herein.

Our primary purpose as a Juvenile Section is to ensure that the children enjoy their involvement, develop a love of our national games, learn to behave in the correct manner on a pitch and develop as players. Mentors are reminded that the team you are in charge of is the club's team and you have been entrusted with that team by the club, how you perform and act will reflect on the club and in the players development.

A key principal is that all referees are treated with respect. No referee goes out to have a bad game. If we treat referees with respect our players will follow. Where our juvenile players treat referees with disrespect, we must take appropriate action. Adults must never under any circumstances abuse a referee.

The **GAA Respect Initiative** aims to promote positive behavior and to ensure that an enriching environment is provided for the promotion and development of Gaelic Games. This includes respect for and from all participants on and around the field. See <http://gaa.ie/youth-zone/gaa-respect-initiative/> for more details.

We would like to welcome any new juvenile mentors, parents or guardians to the Club. What follows is an attempt to draw together, for all our benefit, the various duties and roles of mentors, along with tips and guidelines on how best to perform those duties. New mentors are recruited each year at juvenile level. These mentors may not have been members of the club previously and accordingly may not be familiar with the operation and procedures of the club or with its aims and aspirations.

All mentors, old and new, are asked to familiarize themselves with the contents of this booklet which sets out the club policy in a range of areas.

Remember that it is up to us as mentors to set the highest standards of child protection, respect and coaching. Training and coaching juvenile 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.

The club is not just about the teams you are mentoring. Please follow the fixtures on the club website and encourage our young players to attend all home fixtures of our other teams. In this way they will also learn the skills of the game.

The facilities in Naomh Mearnog are second to none. They have been developed over a number of years through a huge amount of voluntary work and are made available to our Juvenile players at a minimal cost. There are however significant costs in running the club, not least referee fees which in the course of a season can add up to over €1,000 per age group. Fundraising is therefore an important part of club life and we would encourage all parents to support and indeed organize fundraising as much as possible.

Very best wishes for the year ahead and should you need any clarification on any aspect of this booklet please contact any Member of the juvenile Committee who for this year are?

Aidan Mullin  
Peter O'Donovan  
Cecil Ryan  
Barry Nangle

Lorinda Kinnane  
Christine Foran  
Stephen Rafter

**Yours in Sport**

**Adrian Kavanagh  
Juvenile Chairman**

## **2. SECTION 2**

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### **2.1. CLUB POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

Naomh Mearnog is a dual club, hurling and football. Equal attention should be given to both codes. All mentors must be members of the club.

All juvenile mentors must receive Garda Clearance. Procedures are outlined under the Garda Vetting Information section on the Club website. This is mandatory and must be submitted before working with our Juvenile Players.

One mentor from each group must ensure that **ALL** players are registered. Players who are not registered are **NOT INSURED** to train or to play in matches. Mentors who are aware of children whose families are in financial difficulty should approach the Juvenile Chairman to make suitable arrangements. In any event **Juvenile players must register by 31<sup>st</sup> March at the latest**. Registration nights will be arranged to facilitate this process.

The allegiance of juvenile players should firstly be to their own year group. Children should only progress from the Academy with their own age group. Children from a younger age group should never be selected or played ahead of children in the correct age group. (Feile is an exception discussed later)

Responsibility for all facilities is the responsibility of all club members. Please ensure dressing rooms are swept and clean after use.

Nets and goals must be replaced after use unless another team confirms that they will use them. Portable goals must never be dragged as this will damage both goals and pitches. Portable goals must always be anchored using the stakes or blocks supplied even for training.

Each team will be supplied with club footballs, sliotars and club jerseys. Mentors are responsible for the safe keeping of same and should ensure jerseys are not allowed to be taken home after games. Footballs and Sliotars to be clearly marked and mentors to ensure all equipment is brought back after games. Each team has been allocated a storage box in the Green Shed, which must be used and be locked after use (lights turned off- do not assume someone else will do this after you)

Each management team should include the following, some of which may be combined:

- A former or current footballer
- A former or current hurler
- Two coaches per session as a minimum
- Two mentors per team on match days which could be a Mentor and a Parent.

None of the above should discourage those new to Gaelic Games from managing a team.

Where a team has had the same set of mentors for a number of years, the introduction of a 'new' coaching voice should be considered by the committee and the mentors. This can happen at any stage but particular consideration should be given as the team progress to under 13. This would supplement rather than replace existing Mentors.

It is club policy that the Manager of each Féile Team is appointed by the Juvenile Committee. The reason for this are:

- The Féile Team may combine two squads and the new manager is less compromised when making difficult selection decisions.
- The novelty of a new manager will heighten the sense of occasion for the children.

## **Naomh Mearnog Guidelines for Juvenile Mentors**

For selection Féile panels priority is given to regular U14 players.

At the start of every season, please pass equipment that is no longer suitable or required down to next age group. This transfer will be coordinated by the Juvenile Committee.

A minimum number of match balls/sliotars should be used on match day. Care should be taken to end the day with the same amount as started.

### **2.2. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

The objective of the Juvenile section is to teach players the skills of Gaelic games and to facilitate the exercise of those skills in a competitive and fun way.

Our aim is to foster an atmosphere of respect, discipline, learning and fun at games and training sessions. Our highest priority is that players should be safe, and learn sporting values during their juvenile playing days which will remain with them for life.

To help us with these aims the GAA have produced a booklet entitled 'Code of Behaviour for all Persons Working with Young People'. All mentors are required to be bound by the principles set out in it.

Any complaints or behaviour contrary to the Code should be reported in the first incidence to a member of the juvenile committee.

### **2.3. COACHES, MENTORS AND TRAINERS**

- Coaches, mentors and trainers should provide a positive, healthy and safe environment in which players can develop.
- Mentors should not find themselves on their own in dressing rooms, cars etc. with an individual player.
- Be careful to ensure that you do not touch a player inappropriately or in a manner which may be perceived as inappropriate.
- In developing the skills levels of every player you should always encourage enjoyment, fun and participation in our games and activities.
- Should always remember that they are role models for the players in their care.
- Skills development and personal satisfaction should have priority over competition, while always promoting **Fair Play**.
- Recognise the development needs of **all** young players, regardless of their ability
- Ensure that you attend the designated training programmes offered to the club.
- Never use foul language or provocative language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Only enter the field of play with the referee's permission and do not question a referee's decisions or integrity.
- Do not coach from inside the pitch boundaries

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### **2.4. THE CLUB**

Naomh Mearnog adopts the **GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport** as a basic level of agreement between the club and our players, their coaches, parents/guardians and supporters in accordance with the Associations guidelines.

We have an obligation to ensure all coaches are made aware of and adhere to the **GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport**, as well as club policies and guidelines, these include:

Respond swiftly and appropriately to protect the welfare of children who participate in our games and related activities.

The club must appoint a Designated Person whose role shall include liaising with Statutory Authorities and the GAA at national level in relation to the reporting of allegations and/or suspicions of child abuse.

The club must monitor and maintain the appropriate level of coaching qualifications among coaches, mentors and trainers.

### **2.5. CHILD WELFARE & PROTECTION**

The Club Designated Person, as identified below, will be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children in the club. It is the Club Children's Officers' responsibility to promote greater awareness of the **GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport** within the club, assist and identify the need for Code of Ethics training among coaches and to report to the Executive Committee regularly.

The Club Designated Person shall be responsible for reporting allegations of abuse to the statutory authorities.

When a child or young person discloses information of actual or suspected abuse to you as a coach or member of the club, you should report the matter as soon as possible to the Club Designated Person, as identified below, with responsibility for reporting abuse.

**Club Designated Person:** Daire Eagney

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**2.6. MEMBERSHIP, REGISTRATION AND FEES**

Membership of the club is formal recognition of involvement with the club, allows access to the various facilities and groups that operate within the club and is of vital importance for the on-going funding for the club.

*Membership is due at the start of March and early payment is encouraged. Juvenile membership must be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> of March at the latest. In order to assist members from a budgeting point of view, instalment options are available.*

Family membership is encouraged, particularly when children begin playing in the Juvenile sections. Having parents involved strengthens the family ties with the club and greatly assists in the smooth running and management of teams and activities.

Subscriptions can be paid online or at Registration nights.

One mentor from each group must ensure that **ALL** players are registered before playing a game for the club.

Players who are not registered are **NOT INSURED** to train or to play.

Mentors who are aware of children whose families are in financial difficulty should approach the chair of the relevant section to make suitable arrangements.

Details of membership fees are available on the club website.

### **3. SECTION 3**

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#### **3.1. GENERAL**

Broadly speaking the duties of mentors are:

- To plan, organise, and prepare their teams for the various competitions. This includes training and coaching the players in the skills of the games, hurling and football.
- To coordinate training and matches between mentors in each code. It is essential that proper and regular training and coaching sessions are arranged for teams and it is easy to see that the successful teams in the club are properly organised and prepared in this regard.

There are coaching manuals available from the Club coach to assist you in organising your coaching sessions. You should also consider seeking assistance from adult players.

Our GPO Paddy Gorey 087 311 0735 is always available to help design sessions or to provide feedback and support to Mentors.

#### **3.2. PREPARATION OF TEAMS BY TEAM MANAGERS**

Useful hints in the preparation of your team.

##### **3.2.1. PLANNING**

There is a very true saying which goes like this: "he who fails to prepare, prepares to fail".

- Planning/preparing involves things as far apart as knowing your player's names in Irish to knowing how to coach.
- You will need appropriate training equipment to assist your training.
- To be confident of getting your season off to a good start, you need to start training/friendlies a few weeks in advance of your first game.
- A few key words to remember when organizing coaching sessions: control, variety, activity, enjoyment, competition, confidence, action.

##### **3.2.2. MOTIVATION**

Focusing the mind to get the best out of the individual; motivate to challenge.

- Always set small objectives at training.
- It is important that you encourage, praise and listen to players
- Encourage discussion between players and management.
- Remind players that "what you put in, you get back".
- Deal with any problems immediately.
- Avoid cliques building up; encourage mixing.



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### **3.2.3. MENTAL FITNESS**

This must be done in training in order that it can be transferred to a match.

- Physical fitness is important for mental fitness. In the context of a match, mental attitude is important.
- Players must be properly prepared; they must arrive in good time for a game; they must have proper gear; they must go into the match with a positive attitude and belief; if not tuned in mentally, physical fitness is no good.
- Words to remember - praise, competition, perfect practice, positive attitude.

### **3.2.4. MANAGING THE INDIVIDUAL / MANAGING CONFLICT**

Talk to the team as a group and as if they are all the same. Remember, however, that they are not all the same and individual players may need a different approach.

- Be accommodating with players who may have other commitments/demands.
- Work on weaknesses of individual players; preferably have 2 trainers – one working with the general group and the other working with specific weaknesses of individual players, e.g. free taking, goalkeeping. Free taking and goalkeeping coaching duties should be assigned to one mentor.
- Be careful to encourage players and not to criticise them.
- In relation to match analysis, listen to players - they may see things on the field that you might not have seen.
- Sort out, early, the root causes of conflict. This should be done on a one to one basis rather than in front of the group. It should not be done in anger.
- Be alert to bullying among players and also ensure that you are not guilty of bullying the players.

### **3.2.5. ORGANISATION**

- Ensure that training is well planned with proper equipment available.
- Have fun games and work on players weaker points.
- Notify players of matches in good time and organise transport.
- At older ages from U11 up formulate tactics, e.g. who takes frees, line balls etc., so that players will know in advance who does what.
- After the game, review and analyse the performance in a positive manner with a view to working on the weaknesses of the team and the individual.
- Encourage all players to perform all the skills, e.g. line balls, frees etc. particularly at younger ages.

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### **3.2.6. COACHING GENERALLY**

As manager/mentor you cannot control the winning of a match. However, you can control the performance.

- Set goals for players - how many balls did you win in the course of a match? How many blocks/hooks etc.
- Develop a style of play. Research other styles of play, including other codes. Don't get into a rut.
- Know your objectives. Instruction in the dressing room should be kept to a minimum.

Among the few rules that you should have are,

- a) be there on time and insist that players are there on time;
- b) if players cannot be there on time, insist that they let you know;
- c) look in the mirror and assess your own performance.

- Ensure drills in training are done at match pace. Drills should be set against the clock. Eg. How many can you do in 30 seconds. Opposed drills based on match conditions should be introduced as appropriate.

In relation to juveniles especially up to U12, concentration should be on enjoyment; winning should be secondary. Remember the team you are in charge of is not your team, **it is the club's team**.

### **3.2.7. CLUB LINK / IDENTITY / PARENTS**

Managing a juvenile team can be very rewarding and fulfilling, however it also bring a large workload, lightening the load can be achieved through the following.

- Parents/Guardians are expected to assist in every way possible with their child's team in whatever capacity they are comfortable with. Remember that the club is a voluntary organisation and we are all responsible for assisting the coaches in whatever way we can in areas such as equipment, washing jerseys, erecting goalposts and nets, catering, refreshments, transport, first aid, umpires, linesmen, team statistics etc.
- Ensure that a parent or Mentor is appointed to take control of First Aid and always have a First Aid Kit at matches.
- Mentors should delegate as much of the above as possible to allow concentration on coaching and team preparation. It is most desirable that you know the first names of the parents. This should be done by holding a parent's meeting twice per year and by trying to involve them as much as possible, e.g. as drivers to away matches and as umpires, linesmen.
- Enquire about injured players on the evening and days following injury.
- Keep in contact with the schools; support school games if possible.
- Ensure that players treat club property as they would treat their own property;
  - Clean their boots outside the dressing rooms;
  - Hand jerseys back rather than throwing them on the floor and walking on them.

### **3.3. Away trips**

Away trips, must be authorised by the club and respective county boards. These should be arranged with a view to improving standards and rewarding players for their efforts at training and matches. Clashes with county board fixtures in the other code must be avoided. Teams should go to the country at least twice per year. This would encourage comradeship and develop closer bond to the club. Make out a detailed itinerary and give a copy to parents; have contact numbers etc. Set very clear rules to behaviour and ensure that underage drinking on trips is totally unacceptable. There are many places with good adventure centres and it might be advisable to arrange trips to such places so that the players can be kept active.

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### **3.4. MATCH DAY**

Having prepared your team properly you are now ready for action. Match fixtures appear on the club website and in the Evening Herald on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Fixtures are also circulated by text to parents and are on **[www.hill16.ie](http://www.hill16.ie)**

- Mentors should ensure that they check this each week.
- Any problems or confusion relating to fixtures should be addressed to your Juvenile Chairman for clarification.
- Mentors should ensure that their team is ready to start the match at the specified time. To facilitate this it is advisable to assemble at the pitch at least a half hour before throw-in for home matches and to assemble at the club at least one hour before throw-in for away matches.
- Parents should be encouraged to provide transport.
- Pitches must be marked out with flags at the appropriate intervals and nets must also be provided.
- Nets are stored in the green container or last dressing room and must be returned there immediately after the match. Failure to do so is showing little respect for your fellow club mentor.
- To relieve yourself of some of the workload on match days, organise a group of parents who will take responsibility for nets/flags etc. before and after the match.
- Each team is expected to provide an umpire. Failure to provide such personnel may lead to controversial decisions being made. Parents of players are usually willing to cooperate in this matter if asked.
- Every effort should be made to give all players a run during a game as otherwise they may not continue to turn up. Players whose number one allegiance is to Naomh Mearnog in particular should be given first priority. Remember it is not all about winning. For teams up to U12, it is mandatory that all players get substantial game time, at least 66% on the pitch and that the same players are not substitutes at the start of the match two weeks in a row. Weaker players improve by playing and the entire structure of Go Games which we play up to U12 supports this goal.
- If game is fixed for home and if pitch is unplayable but opposition pitch is playable, then the game must proceed in oppositions' grounds.

### **3.5. REFEREES**

- Each team (from U13 up) must provide the referee with a team list, in duplicate. Hand both lists to the ref before the match. One list is given to the opposition by the referee and the other is sent to the Board by the referee.
- You should ensure that you get the opposition's team list from the referee in case there is any need to object to the eligibility of any of their players.
- You must also pay the referee the agreed expenses rate.
- Mentors are responsible for the conduct of their players both on and off the field. They must also ensure that supporters/parents conduct themselves in a proper manner i.e. no abuse to the referee or opposition or any interference with their own team. This club has a good record in relation to discipline and it is up to all mentors to ensure that this record is maintained. Mentors are responsible for the conduct of supporters.
- If a referee, up to U12, fails to turn up within 15 minutes after the match is due to start the away team has the first option to referee the match. If they do not the home team must supply a referee.
- To ensure that the referee turns up, you are strongly advised to phone the referee on the evening before the match to ensure that he knows about it. This applies to CCC2. For CCC1 where the referees are younger contact should be made with the Referee Coordinator
- Please note that if a game is cancelled and the referee has not been informed, the club must pay the full referee's fees for home games.

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### **3.6. GO-GAMES: UNDER 9 TO 12 FOOTBALL & HURLING**

Go-Games is a competition for all age groups from under 9 to under 12. This involves small-sided games with rules specific to each age group. The reason for the introduction of Go-Games is to reduce competition being placed on young players and to give every player the opportunity to develop all the skills of football and hurling at an early age.

All the latest rules on the Go-Games are available at [www.dublingaagamesdevelopment.ie](http://www.dublingaagamesdevelopment.ie)

## **OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **3.7. EQUIPMENT**

Mentors should ensure that they have at their disposal the proper equipment to facilitate training and playing matches.

- e.g. jerseys, footballs, pump, hurleys, sliotars, first aid kit, flags, list book, bibs, cones, whistle. The club name or some such mark should be put on sliotars/footballs etc to identify the clubs property and avoid confusion after matches.
- Respect for club equipment and property and the avoidance of waste, damage or loss of footballs, hurleys, sliotars etc must be insisted on.
- It is club policy that all players wear club socks and shorts during matches and it is the responsibility of the mentors to ensure that this policy is strictly adhered to. Socks and shorts may be purchased by players in the club shop which is open from 10am to 12pm each Saturday morning and 8pm to 9pm every Thursday.
- If teams are fortunate to acquire sponsorship for jerseys, they should pass the old jerseys down the line to the next team.
- Where a team has sponsored jerseys all players should wear these during matches
- Gum Shields are mandatory for Football training and matches.
- Helmets are mandatory for all hurling training and matches.

### **3.8. INJURIES / INSURANCE**

Risk is an inherent factor in sport, as in life. When members voluntarily take part in Club activities, they accept the risks that such participation may bring. If a member is injured while participating in an official club match or training session and incurs medical or physiotherapy costs as a result of that injury they are expected to seek reimbursement of these costs from their own personal accident/health insurance schemes in the first instance. In the event that these schemes do not fully recompense a member's costs they can apply to the GAA and/or the Club's Supplementary Injury schemes to seek repayment of any outstanding amounts. The procedure for claiming these outstanding amounts depends on the costs and treatments involved and are available on the club website or by contacting the Juvenile Chairman.

Injuries should be reported to the Referee from U13 Up and any serious injury reported without delay to a Member of the Juvenile Committee.

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### **3.9. BOARD DELEGATES**

The club has delegates attending the various Boards. In the case of the Juvenile Boys' Section, these are:

CCC1 Derek McKeever

CCC2 Frank O'Daly

- Board delegates perform a communication role between the Boards, the club and the teams. They can only represent the club in a proper manner if they are kept fully informed by team mentors.
- This means that the delegate must be informed, on the evening of the match of any incidents that may have occurred during a match, if the match is not played, or if the match is otherwise cancelled or postponed. It is the responsibility of the mentor to return match results using the County Board Texting facility
- Communication with the boards is via the Juvenile Chairman or the Board Delegates **only**.
- Board officials should not be contacted directly by mentors without the knowledge and permission of the Board Delegate.
- The Board Delegate will channel communication from the Boards to mentors via email and, where appropriate, via the website [www.naomhmearnog.ie](http://www.naomhmearnog.ie)
- If for some valid reason a mentor wishes to have his match postponed, he must give adequate notice (at least 2 weeks) of a request to his Board delegate and it is a matter for the Board Delegate to apply to the Board for such postponement.
- If you are notified of a postponement by the opposition, notify your delegate immediately. The postponing team notifies the opposition's mentor and the referee.
- Note: CCC2 are especially reluctant to grant postponements and will only do so for serious reasons. In this event, their expectation is that the game will be played **before** the appointed date.
- If a postponement is granted, then the game must be played within two weeks of the original fixture or else the team requesting the postponement will lose the points.

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**3.10. OVERAGE AND UNDERAGE PLAYERS**

- Overage or otherwise ineligible players must never be played. The penalty in the event of an objection is loss of the match and suspension for the player, mentor, club chairman and secretary.
- If you suspect that the opposition is playing one or more overage or ineligible players you are entitled to request the referee to stop the match and take the name and date of birth of all the suspected players. This must be done during the match.
- Please be sure of your facts as it can be very embarrassing if you are wrong and one must maintain good relations with all clubs.
- You then have 5 days to check out the players with the County Board and lodge an objection if considered necessary.
- This must be done through the Juvenile Committee.
- It is club policy that players' first responsibility is to play in teams of their own age group. Where older teams are occasionally short, players may sub up, but not to the detriment of players in the older age group. Care should be taken that players who 'sub up' should not displace the players of the older team to the substitutes' bench.
- Mentors of the older team must receive permission from the mentors of the younger teams (in **both** codes, if applicable) before playing players up. Contact should not be made with the player until the relevant mentors in both codes have been appraised of the request. Parental Approval must also be obtained.
- Club policy also prevents the playing of players 2 years above their age group. This is a player safety issue and must not be breached.

**3.11. PLAYING FRIENDLY / CHALLENGE MATCHES**

- Permission must be sought from the County Board through the Juvenile Committee / Section Board Delegates. E-Mail/Phone your request to Juvenile Committee Secretary / Section Board Delegate.
- The County Board needs 3 clear days' notice in order to ensure that the match is covered by the GAA Players Injury Insurance Scheme.
- If the match is at home, you will need to check the availability of pitches with the Club Manager.
- Ordinarily if a challenge match is against another Dublin team, the home team notifies the County Board.
- If a country team travels to play in our club, it is right that we offer to provide them with refreshments. Tea, sandwiches, cakes etc. are normally organised by the parents of the players and the kitchen and hall are made available through the Bar Manager. A minimum of 3 days prior notice must be given to the Bar Manager.
- In general, teams make their own arrangements (transport, accommodation, meals, etc.) at no cost to the club when travelling to play a team outside Dublin. It is a very responsible task to take a team away to play matches. You must accept responsibility fully to remain in complete control.

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**3.12. PROCEDURES TO TRANSFER A PLAYER**

- The Juvenile transfer season is usually for about 2 weeks in late November/early December. Please contact the club secretary and board delegates for details.
- If the club objects, the Juvenile Board make a final decision on the transfer.
- The only transfer allowed outside this time is if a player moves from another county during the year or moves home address within Dublin.
- As we are a dual club members may not play one code with Naomh Mearnog and another code with another GAA club, without the prior express approval of the club. This will only be granted where there is no team at the appropriate age in a code.

**3.13. DUAL PLAYERS / PLAYER BURNOUT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Allowance should be made for players who are involved in intensive school games activities. Club training may be modified accordingly. Friendly matches should be avoided at these times.
- A calendar of activities for the year should be drawn up collaboratively by the mentors of a particular age group with the intention of avoiding over-training.
- That the above agreed calendar should allow for weeks which are designated as “free from training”, from time to time and also take school playing seasons into account
- A standardised ‘off-season’ should be agreed on.eg. Dec/Jan and that no games/challenge matches should be played during that period.
- A standardised warm up/cool down procedure be implemented with all club teams in the interests of injury prevention. Please appoint one mentor to this role.
- When selecting players for Dublin development squads, that due cognisance be taken of the demands being placed on players and it is recommended that a player should be nominated to participate in one squad only ie. either hurling / football from U14 upwards.
- Contact from the Dublin Development squad manager should be through the Club mentor to ensure that a player can be made available from the club to the county where there are clashes with club fixtures
- Parents of players involved in Dublin development squads must remember that the players' first allegiance is to their club.
- It is preferable if the players being requested to ‘sub up’ are rotated .ie. that the same players are not being called on the whole time.

**3.14. Other Sports**

The clubs absolute priority is the promotion of Gaelic games. However we recognize that many children will play other sports either in school or with local clubs. Competitive fixtures are set by the county board and must be fulfilled. Outside of these fixtures, where possible, mentors should avoid unnecessary clashes with fixtures in other sports. Such clashes create difficult situations for Parents and Children alike.

**Naomh Mearnog  
Guidelines for Juvenile Mentors**

### **3.15. USE OF THE DRESSING ROOMS**

The following few points relating to the use of the dressing rooms should be remembered:

- Dressing rooms of the home and visiting teams must be cleaned out by the home team.
- Players are advised not to leave valuables or cash in the dressing rooms. The club will not accept responsibility for any loss. Visiting teams and referees should be advised in this regard.
- Please ensure that the dressing rooms are locked after use by your team.
- Mentors must ensure that at least one adult is present in the dressing room at all times with the team to ensure that no damage is caused to club property.

#### **NEVER BE ALONE IN A DRESSING ROOM WITH A CHILD**

### **3.16. PITCHES**

Pitches are allocated by the Pitch Committee and it is essential that teams stick to their allocated pitch. No switching of pitches is allowed without the approval of the Pitch Committee

- It is absolutely imperative that pitches are not played or trained on when they are declared unplayable.
- During bad weather, mentors should check on Friday evening for news of pitches being declared unplayable.
- If your pitch is unplayable you should notify the opposition and the referee.
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Mentors must be vigilant and during bad weather should not use pitches unless they are certain that they are in a playable condition. Training in bad weather should take place to the side or off pitch.

### **3.17. USE OF PORTABLE GOALS**

Portable goals are available for use and are stored in outside the All Weather. They are for use mainly for Go Games matches and for the younger juvenile teams to shorten the pitch. Please ensure when erecting posts they are secured safely with appropriate pegs or weights, even for training. Again a parent or parents should be assigned to this important task. Goals should never be dragged and should be returned after use.

### **3.18. SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDRAISING (INCL. FÉILE FUNDRAISING)**

Every team in the club should be self-financing and appropriate sponsorship should be used at every opportunity. Any major sponsorship should be ratified by the juvenile committee. Any major sponsorship is entitled to a launch evening in the club and relevant exposure through press and club website. All fundraising activity must be ratified by the juvenile committee. A request to fundraise will be made to the juvenile committee. The request will include the following

- Details of proposed event
- Purpose of fundraising
- Expenditure for details for nominated cause
- Target for fundraising event



## **Naomh Mearnog Guidelines for Juvenile Mentors**

Féile is a major feature of the club's juvenile calendar. Over the years fundraising for Féile has been a great way to involve parents and guardians in the social network of the club.

Please note that **all funds raised** on behalf of the Club must be firstly returned to the club through the Bar Manager or Treasurer. A strict record of all monies raised must be maintained. Expenditure must be approved by the Juvenile Chairman. Consequently 20% of funds raised during all fund raising events will be retained for general club expenditure.

Audited accounts of the club are presented annually at the AGM

### **3.19. Club Shop**

The Club Shop is an important source of club funding and is the only outlet which sells official club gear. In addition to club gear and casual clothing, the shop stocks huris, helmets, gum shields sliotars and footballs of all sizes. Please make the shop your first option when purchasing any of the above as all profits go directly to the club.

### **3.20. MEETINGS**

The Juvenile Committee convenes once a month to check the progress of teams and the general running of the Juvenile Section. This meeting is generally the second last Thursday of the Month.

The Committee is ratified and receives its mandate from the Club Executive. It has an obligation to ensure that all teams act in a manner consistent with our codes and policies. Where this is not happening the committee will initially work with the Mentors to address the matter in an informal way.

For a serious breach or consistent breaches the following will apply:

- A subcommittee will be established to meet with the Mentors or Parents involved.
- The sub-committee will report back to the Juvenile chairman with a recommendation. Once approved the recommendation will be fed back to those involved. For the avoidance of doubt the committee has the right to change Mentors/Management Teams

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**3.21. MENTORS' EXPENSES**

It is an expected feature of voluntary work in general and of GAA work in particular that club members (officials and players), not only give of their time but they do not demand or expect payment of minor personal expenses incurred by them in their voluntary role.

Referee Fees should be reclaimed on the appropriate form.

U8-U11 €10 per match

U12 €15 per match

U13- U16 €20 per match

**3.22. Parents**

Parents are an important part of the Naomh Mearnog juvenile section. The following elements of the code are applicable to parents.

- Ensure your child is on time for training and matches
- Advise Mentors at the earliest opportunity if your child is unavailable for training or matches.
- Maintain positive support on the side-line and never negatively comment on your child's performance during a match.
- Do not argue with Referees at any time
- Try to practice skills with your child outside formal training.
- It is a fact the children develop at different paces and that within an age group there can be an 11 month gap. The Mentor will place the child on the appropriate team for their current ability and will ensure, in line with club policy, that they get plenty of game time.
- Development of underage players is a long term project and confidence is a key element.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child, please approach the Mentor in the first instance, ideally at the end of a training session, but never during a match.
- Do not ask your child to play when ill or injured.
- Please try to help out with nets, goal etc.