



The GAA Respect initiative seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner where players, coaches, spectators and referees Give Respect – Get Respect from each other.

The Give Respect - Get Respect initiative applies to all in the GAA regardless of age, competition or ability.

HOW DO WE PROMOTE THE GAA RESPECT INITIATIVE?

- Implement the Respect initiative at all levels within the GAA, regardless of age, competition or ability
- Wear the GAA Give Respect - Get Respect logo on your Club jerseys
- Implement the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport
- Adopt our Code of Behaviour at Club and County level
- Organise Club information evenings for parents and mentors
- Deliver Coach & Referee Education Programmes
- Arrange designated spectators' areas
- Implement GAA Go Games and OTú models
- Provide strong Club and County leadership
- Provide recognition and merit awards

RESPECT

- **R**esponsible
- **E**ncouraging
- **S**upportive
- **P**ositive
- **E**nabling
- **C**onsiderate
- **T**olerant

Club:

Respect Representative:



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The Give Respect - Get Respect initiative is coordinated by the GAA National Children's Office

GAA



GIVE RESPECT GET RESPECT

Our games. Our choice.

GIVE RESPECT - GET RESPECT HOW DOES IT WORK IN THE GAA?

- The GAA Respect initiative – Give Respect Get Respect – originally targeted at underage teams is now promoted and delivered at all levels within the GAA, regardless of age, competition or ability.
- Referees and the opposing team are to be welcomed by the host Club prior to each game
- Players shake hands with their opponents before the game commences
- Players and coaches line up at the centre of the pitch after each game to shake hands with the referee, opposing players and coaches
- Referees communicate decisions in an effective manner
- A designated spectators area is clearly marked two metres from the playing area
- Team coaches wear designated bibs and are the only personnel allowed along the sideline area
- At the relevant age categories units of the Association will strive to achieve the maximum participation of all players in accordance with the GAA Go Games and OTú playing models
- Host Clubs will endeavour (resources and facilities permitting) to offer visiting teams the opportunity to socialise after each game by providing light refreshments

The GAA Give Respect – Get Respect initiative promotes the rights, dignity and worth of each person regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious belief

COACHES

- Lead by example, treat each player equally while setting realistic goals for your players
- Do not question the referee's integrity or allow him/her to be subjected to unsporting language or behaviour by players, other coaches or spectators
- Implement the GAA OTú and Go Games model as appropriate to age categories
- Ensure that injured players are not encouraged or forced to play
- Never enter the field of play without permission from the referee
- Use a "fun at all costs" approach rather than "win at all costs" approach in an age appropriate manner emphasising the basic skills of our Games
- Never engage in or tolerate abusive behaviour

PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND SPECTATORS

- Always respect the match officials' decisions and encourage others to do likewise
- Appreciate every player regardless of ability
- Show approval for effort, not just success
- Do not criticise your own team, officials or the opposition
- Don't force players to live or act out the expectations of others
- Commend and thank team mentors and match officials on a regular basis
- Remain in designated spectator areas for the full duration of the game
- Safeguard your child's well-being by ensuring that he/she plays within their own age group
- Never engage in offensive or derogatory language or behaviour
- Relay genuine concerns to the Club Children's Officer or other Club officials to be processed properly

PLAYERS

- Play by the rules and take responsibility for your own behaviour
- Respect fellow players, opponents, coaches, referees and officials
- Shake hands with opponents before and after each game regardless of the result
- Encourage your team to play fairly and in a sporting manner
- Accept decisions of match officials and do not use foul language or behave in an unsporting manner
- Talk to your parents/guardians or a person in the Club if you are unhappy with the way you are being treated

CLUBS

- Select a designated representative for each team to oversee the GAA Respect Initiative
- Implement the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and joint Code of Behaviour as the minimum level of good practice
- Welcome referees to the club for each game
- Promote fair play through the provision of "merit awards" based on the principles of the GAA Respect initiative
- Ensure that the GAA Respect initiative is implemented at all age levels and in all competitions involving the Club

REFEREES

- Work in collaboration with players and officials so as to apply the playing rules on an impartial and consistent basis
- Communicate decisions to players and team officials in an effective manner
- Deal with dissent or abuse firmly and fairly
- Do not tolerate offensive or insulting behaviour from players, coaches or spectators
- Work as a team with other match officials
- Maintain composure regardless of circumstances
- Use assessments to improve performance and achieve excellence

MANAGING THE SIDELINE

- In the event of any person, other than a player, behaving in an unsporting manner or using foul language it is recommended that:
- The matter is brought to the attention of their club representative
 - The representative reminds the person concerned of his/her responsibilities
 - Where unacceptable behaviour continues, the person may be requested to leave the grounds

