



**ZERO  
TOLERANCE**

# R4R

## Respect for Referees

### A Code of Conduct



North Armagh Divisional Board  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael - Coiste Ceantair Tuaisceart

*RESPECT: Responsible for Encouraging Sporting, Positive, Enjoyable, Considerate and Tolerant behaviour towards referees and match officials.*

## **Foreword**

As the custodians of Gaelic Football in North Armagh it is important that all Clubs within the North Board do everything possible to apply a zero tolerance against unsporting behaviour towards our referees and match officials and strengthen our reputation as a family friendly sport. This Code of Conduct serves to underline the support needed for our referees and match officials without whom our games could not be played, whether you be a player, an administrator, a parent, a coach, a volunteer or a supporter. I very much commend the Code of Conduct and the R4R campaign to all Clubs within North Armagh.

**Maoileachlain O hEanna**  
**Cathaoirleach, Coiste Ceantair Tuaisceart**

## **Principles**

Participants in Gaelic Football include a wide range of people, including - players, parents, supporters, coaches, referees and match officials, volunteers and administrators. Each and every participant should:

- Discourage all instances of unsporting behaviour, foul or abusive language, and acts of violence, both on and off the field towards referees or match officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all referees and match officials regardless of their gender, age, ethnic origin, religion, special needs, sexual orientation, marital status, colour or political persuasion.
- Condemn any practice that endangers the health of referees and match officials.

## **Players**

- Respect all good play whether from your team or the opposition and shake hands with the opposition players and officials before and after the game - win, lose or draw.
- Always respect the match official's decision.
- Make every effort to be consistent with the traditions and rules of our game and never get involved in foul play.

- Honour both the spirit and the letter of competition rules and live up to the highest ideals of sportsmanship.
- Never engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including swearing, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, taunting or other actions that are demeaning to other players, officials or supporters. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Recognise that many officials, coaches and match officials are volunteers who give up their time to provide their services. Treat them with respect and remember without them we would not have our games.

### **Coaches**

- Actively discourage foul play and/or unsporting behaviour by players.
- Shake hands with the opposing team's coaches and officials and encourage your players to do the same - before and after the game, win, lose or draw.
- Show concern and caution for sick and injured players.
- Encourage players not to challenge or verbally abuse but to respect and accept the judgement of the match officials.
- Never engage in public criticism of match officials.
- Restrict the number of coaches/mentors inside the field perimeter to not more than 6 from each team.
- Ensure that where a player is sent off, a mentor/official from his team escorts him from the ground and ensures the player does not reenter the field of play.

### **Volunteers/Administrators**

- An official of the home team should always welcome the match officials to the Club on arrival.
- Always apply the principle - friendship first and competition second.

Observe the behaviour of all spectators and report issues of concern to the appropriate officials.

## **Parents/Supporters**

- Behave. Unsporting language, harassment or aggressive behaviour is unacceptable.
- Respect the match officials' decisions - don't complain or argue about decisions during or after a game.
- Condemn all violent or illegal acts, whether they are by players, coaches, officials, parents or supporters.
- Encourage players to play by the rules and to respect opposition players and officials.
- Don't ridicule a player for making a mistake rather respect their efforts and do not engage in any jeering that taunts or intimidates opponents, their supporters or officials.
- Never arrive at a game under the influence of alcohol and never bring alcohol to a game and only consume alcohol if available in the designated areas.

## **Sanctions**

**Note - Clubs are responsible for the conduct and behaviour of their players, parents, supporters, coaches, volunteers and officials.**

No person attending a match shall:

Use offensive or obscene language to any player, coach, referee or match official or supporter;

- Enter the field of play during a match without the prior approval of the match referee;
- Dispute the decision of a match official either during or after a match;
- Assault or act with aggression to any persons;
- Act in a way that is contrary to this Code of Conduct;
- Behave in a way that disturbs the enjoyment of the match or brings discredit to their Club.

Any persons contravening this Code of Conduct shall be reported to the Secretary of his/her Club or to the Secretary to the North Board. The

Club Secretary will advise the offending person that they have been reported. Clubs who do not exercise control over their players, coaches, parents, officials, volunteers or supporters shall be called upon by the North Board to accept responsibility for their actions and the following penalties may apply.

## **Penalties**

**Please note that these penalties may be additional to any disciplinary action taken by the North/County Board.**

**First Offence** - a fine or loss of competition points/result &/or suspension of a player from playing, &/or suspension of offender(s) from attending future matches.

**Second Offence** - suspension of the player, &/or team, &/or Club from the competition on a temporary basis.

**Third Offence** - suspension of the player, &/or team, &/or Club either for the remainder of the season or longer.