

# GAA Tackling Bullying

The GAA aims to create a supportive environment where any form of bullying is unacceptable.

We adopt a whole organisational approach to addressing bullying and are committed to implementing structures and relevant training to deal with allegations of bullying. Incidents of bullying are regarded as serious breaches of our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.

We are committed to achieving an ethos of respect so as to maximise the potential of all of our members when playing or participating in our Gaelic Games.



## What is Bullying?

We define Bullying as 'repeated aggression be it verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others'.

Bullying can take many different forms:

- **Verbal:** threatening consequences, spreading rumours, name calling, teasing, making sexual/racist/sectarian remarks, highlighting physical appearances or sporting ability.
- **Physical:** kicking, punching, hitting, spitting, biting, tripping, theft or destruction of property and kit.
- **Emotional:** ignoring, excluding, getting people into trouble, leaving them out of games, talking behind their backs, writing unpleasant notes/letters/graffiti, writing letters/text messages/emails or comments on social network sites.

In our games and at our activities different people may be involved in bullying incidences. These may include players/coaches/mentors/parents/spectators/bystanders.



If you have a concern or if you believe that you or somebody else may be the target, recipient or victim of Bullying within the Club you should contact the Club's Children's Officer who will deal with your concern.

## Your Club's Children's Officer

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## Preventing Bullying

It is the responsibility of everybody in the Club to prevent or if need be to deal with incidents of bullying if ever they occur. Our approach is to create a supportive environment where it is not acceptable to bully and where the ethos of the Association is that it is 'ok to tell' if you know about incidents of bullying.

**GAA players, coaches, spectators and clubs should:**

- ✓ Respect every person's right to play and participate in an environment which is safe and secure and also offers praise and recognition
- ✓ Ensure that every person is treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity
- ✓ Recognise that everyone is important and that our differences make each of us special
- ✓ Challenge all forms of prejudice and promote equality
- ✓ Model fair play, respectful behaviour and leadership
- ✓ Discourage people from colluding with bullying

The Children's Officer in each Club has a responsibility to promote an 'anti bullying ethos' and ensure that the club adheres to the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.

## Dealing with Bullying

How do you know if it's Bullying?  
Ask yourself the following questions:

### Targeted

Is the behaviour targeted at a group or individual?

### Duration

Has this behaviour been happening over a period of time?

### Frequency

How frequent is the behaviour and is there a pattern occurring?

### Intention

Is the intention of the behaviour to cause pain/harm/distress to an individual or group?

It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that:

- ✓ The target of the Bullying is made feel safe
- ✓ That the Bullying is stopped and the bully's behaviour is addressed
- ✓ Every person in membership of a GAA Club or attending our games or activities should be fully aware that Bullying is unacceptable in the GAA