



Club Juvenile Policy Documents

The clubs juvenile policy documents are listed below. As these documents are updated regularly, mentors, parents, guardians and players are asked to familiarise themselves with these policies and if there are any concerns or issues to raise them with the Juvenile Chair.

Neil Fogarty
Juvenile Chair
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Section 1: Garda Vetting in Naomh Olaf

As and from the commencement of the National Vetting Bureau Act on 29 April 2016 **the GAA only engage in e-vetting or online vetting procedures** thus eliminating paper vetting that had been in existence since 2009.

It is worth noting that any person who has not been vetted, and who has not previously worked with children in the GAA, and who subsequently seeks on our behalf to work with children and or vulnerable adults are now in breach of the law. Should we employ or recruit a person to do this work who has not been vetted we also will be breaching the law.

Any person currently vetted by the GAA is covered under the Act as their vetting acceptance in essence transfers over under the new Act. For the purpose of clarification, the National Vetting Bureau Act in GAA terms applies to any person who carries out a role of responsibility with an underage player i.e. a person who is under 18 yrs. of age. This also applies to any coach, manager, selector of a senior squad if that squad includes a person under 18 yrs. of age. The Act also covers those who work with vulnerable adults. The GAA's e Vetting Process is contained in the club's information document for parents and mentors.

Section 2: Child Protection

Naomh Olaf GAA club is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. The club's child protection policy as ratified by the Executive is available here: <http://www.naomholaf.ie/fileupload/Website%20Policies%20January%202019/Child%20Protection%20Policy%20J19.pdf>. All mentors are obliged to read the policy, sign the declaration form, and return to the Children's Officer. This document sets out the Club's policy regarding the protection of our underage players. It is intended to help provide guidelines for stakeholders to ensure that all our underage players can enjoy the Club's activities in a safe and fulfilling environment. Every individual in Naomh Olaf GAA Club should, at all times show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all members and of visitors to the club and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.

For details of the current Gaelic Games safeguarding training policy, see <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/kpt1suaverwoaiinwg6.pdf>

The Club is obliged to have a Designated Liaison Person who is responsible for reporting allegations of abuse to the statutory authorities. Any disclosures of abuse or potential abuse must be reported to the clubs Designated Liaison Person The Club also has a Club Children's Officer (CCO). See list on website for current DLP & CCO. Any issues regarding child welfare may be referred to them.

Section 3: Player Safety

Mouth guards: All juvenile players must wear mouth guards for football, without exception. This is a GAA ruling and a Ladies Football ruling. This applies to training and matches, and no mentor should allow a juvenile train or play without a mouth guard. From at least 10 years of age up a custom fit mouth guard is advised. They provide better protection and are much more comfortable than the standard boil and bite. <https://learning.gaa.ie/sites/default/files/GAA-Mouthguard-Information%202016.pdf>

Hurling helmets: The GAA would like to remind all players at all levels in all Hurling Games and Hurling Practice Sessions it is mandatory for, and the responsibility of, each individual player to wear a helmet with a facial guard that meets the standards set out in IS:355 or other replacement standard as determined by the National Safety Authority of Ireland (NSAI). <https://learning.gaa.ie/sites/default/files/Hurling%20Helmet%20Advice%20Updated%20September%202018.pdf>

All players are advised that in the event of a head injury occurring, if the helmet being worn does not meet the standard or is modified or altered from the original manufactured state, they are not covered under the terms of the GAA Player Injury Fund.

The following helmet manufacturers currently provide products which meet the standards set out in IS:355 or other replacement standard as determined by the National Safety Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

- Mycro
- Azzuri
- Cooper.ie
- Marc Sports
- O’Neills
- Atak Sports

Players and parents should note that not all products provided by some of these manufacturers meet the standards of IS:355.

Once the helmet or faceguard is modified in anyway, the player is playing at an increased risk of injury and not covered under the terms of the GAA Player Injury Benefit Fund.

Section 4: Club Juvenile Games Policy

Academy

The Naomh Olaf Academy is where the youngest members of the club begin to learn the basic elements of camogie, hurling and football.

Organised in a fun environment and intended to be as much a social occasion for young children and their parents as well as a setting for developing the skills of future players, the Naomh Olaf Academy is currently catering for children aged 4-7 years old.

- All players leaving the academy must be the correct age i.e., no player eligible to play U7 will be allowed to leave the academy and play U8.
- All children should be streamed into their correct age within the academy from day 1 to prevent issue arising when children leave to go to U8's
- The Boys and Girls Academy will work off an aligned calendar.

Juvenile Teams

- All teams up to and including the age of 12 shall wear their own Olaf's Jersey unless a set has been provided through some form of sponsorship
- All teams above the age of 12 shall be provided with numbered Club jerseys by the juvenile committee
- Where necessary hurling and football teams at one age will share the set of jerseys to minimise the cost to the club. Likewise, for Ladies/Camogie.
- All training and games will be played in a positive atmosphere and players should be encouraged not criticised when mistakes are made.
- Bullying will not be tolerated under any circumstance and must be dealt with immediately. Bullying issues should be brought to the attention of the Lead Mentor who will in turn inform the Juvenile Chairperson. Should the issue remain unresolved please contact the Children's Officer (details posted in players corridor & on our website). Our club Anti-Bullying statement is available here:
<http://www.naomholaf.ie/fileupload/Website%20Policies%20January%202019/Anti-bullying%20StatementJ19.pdf>
- No mentors should place him/herself in a situation where they are left on their own with a child in the dressing room or in a car. This is for the protection of both the mentor and child.

Go Games

- All go game teams will follow the GAA guidelines. All teams shall be streamed in accordance with guidelines of respective Boards.
- In the go game section all players should get at least half a game. It is recommended that mentors allocated one mentor to the role of substitute management to assist in making this happen.
- From U13 upwards the emphasis is on performing to the best of the team's ability but mentors should strive to give every player game time unless that not possible due to competition rules.
- Teams should contact the opposition and, when at home, the referee by Thursday evening to confirm that the game will go ahead. In the event of pitch call offs both opposition and referee must be contacted. If opposition's ground is payable you are obliged to travel.
- All Challenge game/Blitzes must be notified, through juvenile chairman/secretary, to the County Board 3 days in advance of game if within the County, otherwise 7 days notification is required.

Section 5: Club Membership & Registration of Players

Only paid-up members will be registered. Any player who has not taken out membership will not be permitted to train or play matches.

All mentors and coordinators must be paid up members of the Club.

Memberships fall due on the 1st January each year and can be paid on www.naomholaf.ie

Lists of paid-up members are on display in the clubhouse.

Section 6: Naomh Olaf GAA Academy Structure

The Academy structure will:

- Consist of 3 Groups U4/'5, U 6 and U7 annually develop both Hurling/Camogie and Boys' and girls' football.
- Take place on a Saturday Morning for Boys and Sunday Morning for Girls
- Each group will take a separate time slot for training e.g., 9am (u7 oldest, 10am (middle u6) and 11am (youngest u4/5's)
- The minimum age for entry to the academy programme is 4 years.

Academy Calendar

The Academy will operate from January until the end of June and Late August/early September until December.

The Academy is not expected to run on Bank holiday weekends.

Recruitment

- To recruit new players the club GPO will be providing ongoing coaching in the local primary schools and in addition to this they're will be 3 leaflet drops to the schools annually. These will take place in January, March April and September.
- The club website and social media will also advertise the Club Academy. There will be a registration day in January and September each year.
- Mentors
- The club's policy will be to recruit as many coaches from each parent group and to upskill them to provide coaching each week. In addition to this Club Adult players, Mol an Ogie and existing club coaches will be encouraged to participate in coaching.
- All mentors will meet the GAA requirements before they will be able to coach.

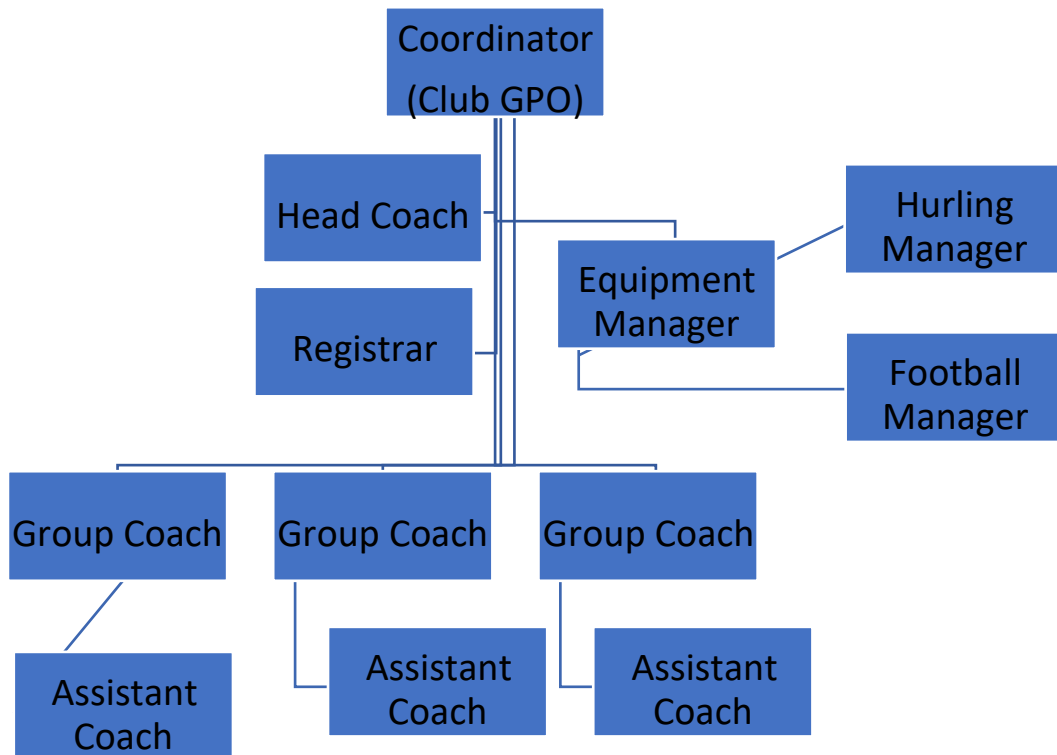
Facilities

The Academy will primarily take place at Naomh Olaf GAA club but also, we may use other facilities that are made available to the club for example indoor halls at local primary schools and all weather pitches within the locality.

How Each Team is run

The full Academy will be overseen by an Academy steering group which includes lead mentors from both boys and girls academy sections.

Below is how each separate group will operate:



Communications

All General Communications that are received through the club official Academy email accounts will be the responsibility of the Club GPO.

Each group lead administrator will be responsible for their groups clubzap, Teamer and individual email accounts.

Duties of Volunteers at your Academy

JOB DESCRIPTION	DUTIES
Academy Coordinator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produces the coaching programme. 2. Coordinates the weekly running of the nursery 3. Arranges coach education workshops/courses. 4. Provides instruction to the head coach.
Head Coach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaises with the coordinator. 2. Provides Instruction to the group coaches. 3. Makes sure that the group coaches are adhering to the coaching programmes. 4. Visits all groups each day.
Football Lead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assist the head coach in the running of all above duties and the planning of Football activities.
Hurling lead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To assist the head coach in the running of all above duties and the planning of hurling activities.
Group Coaches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsible for group of eight ten children. 2. Follow coaching programme. 3. Coach the skills to the children.
Assistant Coaches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist the group coach. 2. Help set up drills. 3. Help if one-on-one coaching is required. 4. In a station format nursery, assistant coaches help in moving children from one station to another. 5. Bring children to the toilet.
Registrar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensures that registration is taken every week. 2. Registers all new comers.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Maintains regular contact with juvenile Secretary in order to update databases. 4. First Aid. 5. Talks to parents.
Equipment Manager	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensures that all equipment is available for collection at the start of each session. 2. Ensures that all equipment is in working order. 3. Makes sure that balls are pumped up. 4. Makes sure that equipment is returned to storage at the end of each sessions. Reports any lost or damaged equipment to the coordinator.

Academy activities

The focus for academy activities within each section will follow the below guidelines:

4 / 5 years old will have a primary focus on fundamental movement skills through fun games and activities which will involve Agility, Balance, Coordination, Running, Jumping, Throwing.

6 years old will have a primary focus on fundamental movement skills through fun games and activities which will involve Agility, Balance, Coordination, Running, Jumping, Throwing with the addition of Catching, Passing, Kicking and Striking

7 years old will have a primary focus on fundamental movement skills through fun games and activities which will involve Agility, Balance, Coordination, Running, Jumping, Throwing, Catching, Passing, Kicking and Striking.

Section 7: Coaching and games development

The Club's Games Promotion Officer (GPO) (Eddie Bouabbse 087 7085913) keeps mentors informed of training and coaching skills courses which are organised throughout the year. He will also work with mentors in devising training programmes for their teams and will run training sessions for teams. Feel free to contact him.

See our coaching portal <http://www.naomholaf.ie/coaching-portal.210.html> and the following websites for coaching ideas, drills etc.:

www.dublingaa.ie

www.dublinladiesgaelic.ie

www.dublincamogie.ie

www.gaa.ie

www.dublingaagamesdevelopment.ie

Section 8: Mentor Development

There are an increasing number of courses available for mentors to help them improve their Coaching skills. There is a series of courses run by Dublin GAA encompassing

Foundation course

The course is aimed at beginner coaches and will enable participants to assist a coach in the organisation of activities to develop Hurling or Gaelic football.

All mentors must have at a minimum a Foundation Course in Coaching

The Club GPO often facilitates a Foundation Course for new Mentors. Please contact Darren Egan for more information.

Award 1 Child

Aimed at: Coaches of Juvenile Teams (U12 and below) with entry Requirements of Foundation Level / Foundation Award Course. Course Candidates will be 18 years or over. Candidates will be asked to abide by the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport

Award 2 Child

The Award 2 Coach Education course is the third award on the coaching pathway of Gaelic games. The course is aimed at coaches that have progressed through the Foundation Award and Award 1 programmes and have experience as a Coach and is aimed at: Coaches of Juvenile Teams (U12 and below).

Skill Specific Workshops

There is also an ongoing series of Coaching Workshops and the Club GPO will continue to provide information on these.

Section 9: Discipline

In the event of a red card being issued to a player or mentor, the mentors should email the juvenile chairman informing him of the issuing of the card and the circumstances and person/s involved.

Section 10: Players playing above their age level

The policy of players starting out and playing their correct age does not prevent any player playing up to support an older team if and when requested. Where this is necessary players are only permitted to play one year above their existing team and only with the prior knowledge of their mentors and approval of the player's parents and Juvenile Chairperson.

All request for players to play up should be channelled through the mentors of the team and should not be made directly to players or parents without the mentor's knowledge and the approval of the juvenile chairperson.

Mentors should endeavour to ensure all players in their squads actively participate and a balance is always struck between success and participation particularly as the Juvenile players reach the older age groups and the emphasis moves from skill development to being competitive as set out in the GAA guidelines issued nationally. When a player is asked to play up, for all age groups up to U14, this should not be done at the expense of a player already part of the team. From U15 onwards where the emphasis moves to competition as set out by National GAA Guidelines, this rule shall not apply. Issues of this nature must be handled with the utmost sensitivity and discussed with the relevant players, to ensure that the confidence and skills development of all young players are maintained and they remain a central part of the team and the club. An individual development plan must be discussed and put in place for such players. Requests for players to play up must only be done through the team mentor of the team below and have the approval of the juvenile chairperson. Where conflict arises or there is concern raised regarding any player in these circumstances, the juvenile committee chairperson and where a juvenile player is concerned, the children's officer must be consulted.

It is club policy that players' first responsibility is to play for the teams of their own age group, so any player asked to play up, to support the team above, must remain fully committed to his/her current team.

The club retains the right to merge teams and enter teams above their age group when necessary or when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the club. Where two panels merge to form one or two teams, e.g. U15 and U16 groups come together to play at U16 for a season, (there is no longer an U15 team) then all players will be deemed to be of the same age group and the team will be picked by the mentors based on the player's attitude, ability and commitment.

Any exceptions to the above must be approved by the Juvenile committee.

Section 11: Feile (U15 from 2021)

It is normal practice that in advance of the Feile U15 that each year group arrange some additional fundraising (providing the club's fundraising/sponsorship procedures are followed) in order to provide some new gear to the players. A meeting with parents of the Feile team should be arranged giving details of the competition, dates etc.

Policy on Playing of Younger Players

In line with the Club Policy on “playing up” it is important that priority is given to playing U15 players in Feile matches and prevent situations where younger age U14 players are played in preference to U15s. There is no requirement to always have U14 players “playing up” for Feile. In the event that a group/team cannot comfortably field a Feile panel from within its own age group then they may consider having U14 players playing up to make up the panel size, but not at the expense of U15 players.

Please note

Panel sizes to be at discretion of team managers subject to National Feile rules.

For Boys, the number of underage U14 players on teams to be restricted to 3 for A, B and C panels.

For Girls, the number of underage U14 players on teams to be per National Camogie and Ladies Football guidelines

It is recommended that the playing policy is made known to fellow mentors and parents of teams.

Section 12: Development Squads

Names of suitable players are to be forwarded to the juvenile chairman, G.P.O and coaching development officer for approval before being sent for trials. Talented committed players with excellent discipline are ideal and should be given preference. Players who are not training and playing regularly in their own age group in the club will not be considered for selection.

Section 13: Communications, including Social Media

Mentors should make themselves aware of the social media guidelines and if they are unsure of what method of communication is permitted in a particular circumstance, please contact our child protection officer (CPO)

Mentors should never communicate by text or email with an individual underage player. All group texts / emails should be sent to parents. However, if a parent wishes the mentor to send the group text or email to a different phone number/email address to their own, they must put this request in writing to the mentor. The mentor must retain this written request. If an underage player obtains a mentor’s phone number or email address and attempts to make direct contact with the mentor, he / she must instruct the child not to do so and inform their parent/guardian of same. The mentor should also seek advice from a member of the Juvenile Committee if this happens.

Mentors should avoid setting up accounts for individual teams on Facebook, Twitter etc.

Please contact our PRO Debbie Phillips naomholafpro@gmail.com for further advice on the use of social media.

The club has adopted the **GAA Social Media Guidelines 2019**

<http://www.naomholaf.ie/fileupload/GAA%20Social%20Media%20Guidelines%202019%20edition.pdf>

Section 14: Fundraising – Sponsorship

Any individual, group or team **must notify** the juvenile committee before seeking sponsorship or undertaking any fundraising for any cause that uses the club's name or crest as part of a fundraising/sponsorship initiative. The juvenile chairperson will then contact the fundraising committee, where a decision will be made and communicated back to the applicant. This procedure has been put in place to protect individual club members and the good name of Naomh Olaf.