

# COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

*Kilmacud Crokes  
Juvenile Football*



Development – Inclusivity – Respect – Fun



Excellence at Senior level has long been a hallmark of Kilmacud Crokes Football - our current status as Dublin and Leinster champions is proof of this.

Equally, we have an unmatched reputation in Player Development, with the vast majority of our Senior players having progressed through the player pathways at Juvenile Level - an invaluable foundation spanning 10 years, from the Coiste Nursery through to u16.

In short, without a thriving underage section, our ongoing success as a club quickly becomes uncertain.

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At Juvenile level, success is about much more than simply outscoring an opponent weekly.

Success for us is player retention in the face of external sporting competition; success for us is releasing to the Adult section a young man who is firmly on track to fulfilling his potential, both on and off the pitch.

With this in mind, we feel it is our responsibility at Juvenile level to challenge ourselves to ever improve.

In this document we outline our core values and desired culture, underpinning a vision for the future where the full Juvenile Football community work together to create a sustainable culture of excellence.

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Alignment on these Guidelines, which are based firmly on a culture of *Respect*, should see us best positioned to remain an elite sporting environment and help set the club for long-term success through both Juvenile and Adult level.

As a committee, we will strive to be *Committed to Excellence* in all we do, and we hope you will join us on this journey.

Crokes Abú!

*KC Juvenile Football Committee*

## Guidelines for Players

### General Expectations

- **RESPECT** is the foundation of everything we do.

Players must respect their Club, their Coaches, their Teammates, their Opposition and their Referees. This Respect should be regardless of sporting ability, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.

- We are *all* Kilmacud Crokes – without exception we include each other, we support each other, we look out for each other.
- Be the BEST that you can be, at all times; for yourself, your team, your club and your family.
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to your Coach or the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions you may have.
- Never use social media to discuss team-mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or other individuals.

### Training

- Players are expected to be **on time**, always. On occasion, if this is not possible, players are expected to let their coach know in advance.
- Players must wear **club gear** for all training sessions.
- Take due care of **club equipment**, players are expected to assist in **collection of kit** after training, as required.
- Players must aspire to constantly **improving their skill levels** – this entails taking *personal responsibility* for any developmental goals agreed with their coaches.

### Match-Day

- Once in the club colours, players must remember they are representing Kilmacud Crokes in everything they do.
- Players must be **Match-ready!**
  - This involves making the appropriate choices in advance of match day, including **Sleep, Diet & Nutrition**, to ensure you can give your very best on the day.
  - All players must have the required equipment – full Club Kit, appropriate boots and gumshield.
- Players must have a **'Team first'** attitude, encourage their teammates and deal with mistakes positively – no blame culture; we win as a team and we lose as a team.
- Never play or train if you feel unwell or are injured – make sure to inform your coach.
- Players must set the highest standards of **discipline** on and off the pitch.
- Players should demonstrate **Sportsmanship** at all times, on the pitch. Be modest when you win; gracious when you lose.
- We do not engage in dissent towards a match official – Accept the decisions of referees and other officials.
- Never cheat – always play by the rules of the game.
- **Enjoy yourself!**

## Guidelines for Managers & Coaches

### General Expectations

- KC Juvenile Managers are expected to establish a footballing environment which is:
  - **Positive**
  - **Safe**
  - **Inclusive**
  - **Enjoyable and fulfilling**
  - **Fun!**
- The Primary Objective for all KC Juvenile managers is the *development of players under their care*. Whilst winning is a significant driver, it should not be pursued to the detriment of long-term player development.
- Coaches should always remember that they are **role models** for the players in their care.
  - Never use foul language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
  - Encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of match officials
  - Never question a Referee's decisions or integrity.
- Promote **Fair Play** and **Respect** amongst your players, fellow coaches, parents and supporters.
- At any point, should you be aware of or have concerns regarding any possible abuse of a child you should report this to the **Club Children's Officer** or relevant statutory authority without delay.

### Young players under your care should be entitled to:

- Be safe and feel safe.
- Be treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity.
- Be treated fairly and equally, regardless of ability, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.
- Comment and make suggestions in a constructive manner.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Participate in games and competitions at levels with which they feel comfortable.
- Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- Be protected from abuse.
- Be listened to.

### Management Requirements

- All Managers and Mentors must:
  - be fully **Registered** and paid-up members of Kilmacud Crokes.
  - be in possession of a current **Garda Vetting Certificate**.
  - have achieved or be in pursuit of a minimum of **Level 1 GAA Coaching Award**.
  - have undertaken **GAA Child Safeguarding** course.
  - seek to continually maintain an understanding of *relevant and current* coaching methods to ensure optimal contribution to player development.
  - be familiar with the contents of the *GAA Code of Behaviour and Best Practice*.

## Guidelines for Managers & Coaches

### Training & Match-Day Expectations

- Always be punctual and properly attired in Kilmacud Crokes kit.
- All managers are expected to maintain both training and match attendance records.
- Be **positive** during all activities so that underage players always leave with a sense of achievement and an increased level of self-esteem.
- Refrain from criticising players publicly – identify and suggest improvements in a constructive manner.
- Our Juvenile players should never be afraid to risk error, to facilitate their learning.
- Do not equate losing with failure and do not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies. The level of improvement made by underage players is the best indicator of effective coaching
- Set realistic performance goals for your players and teams – stretching but achievable.

### Health & Safety Guidelines

- The Juvenile Football Section will provide guidelines on how to stock an appropriate **Medical Bag** for underage footballers.
- Ensure to make adequate provision for First Aid services within your team.
- Do not encourage or permit players to play while injured.
- Always inform parents/guardians if their child has been injured or becomes unwell at games or training.
- Make yourself aware of concussion protocols – if you have any doubt as to the health of a player following a collision - remove them immediately from the game/training.
- All coaching staff should ensure to be accompanied by at least one other adult in dressing room environments.
- Except in an emergency situation, managers/coaches should never transport a child on their own in their car.
- Outside of face-to-face interactions, all communications with Juvenile players should be via their parent/guardian. This includes digital media such as WhatsApp, SMS, email etc.

## Guidelines for Parents

### General Expectations

Parents/Guardians have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to fully participate in Gaelic Games. In common with Coaches, parents of underage players should always remember that they are *role models* for the players in their care.

### Training & Match-Day

- Adopt a positive attitude to your children's participation in our games.
- Show appreciation to volunteers, coaches and club officials.
- Ensure prompt response to all Team Communications (Teamer, WhatsApp etc.) Coaches are volunteers and their time is precious – please demonstrate appreciation by facilitating their ability to manage their squad, in a timely manner.
- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Never use foul language/gestures to a player, opponent or match official.
- Do not exert undue pressure on your child.
- Never admonish your own child or any other child for their standard of play.
- Be realistic in your expectations.
- Show approval for effort, not just results.
- Avoid the dreaded drive home 'Post-Mortem' - try not to ask a child, 'How much did you score today?' or 'What did you win/lose by?'. Ask them instead 'Did they enjoy themselves?'
- Applaud good play from all teams.
- Do not criticise playing performances. Identify how improvements may be made.
- Do not enter the field of play unless specifically invited to do so by an official in charge.

### Please encourage your son to:

- Be punctual for all sessions.
- Always play by the rules.
- Uphold the principles of FAIR PLAY and RESPECT for all.
- Take personal ownership of their Skill Development.
- Appreciate everybody on their team, regardless of ability.
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle around exercise, food, rest and play.
- Speak up in confidence should they have any concerns.
- Implement the 'Guidelines for Players' in full.

### Feedback

- If a parent has any issues to raise regarding their child's participation or performance, they may raise this with the team coach(es) but should do so in a constructive and non-confrontational manner and not in the company or vicinity of young players or other parents.
- Know that it is acceptable to talk to your Coach or the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions you may.