

Coaches/Mentors are critical to the establishment of good practices in football. Their attitude to the game directly informs the attitude of the players under their supervision. Coach/Mentors must speak and act in a manner consistent with this reality.

As a Coach/Mentor I will:

## **As a Coach/mentor in Galway Bohemians AFC I will:**

- Complete Garda Vetting before commencing my role
- Complete the safeguarding 1 course.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat each person equally within the context of the sport.
- Place the health, well-being, and safety of each player above all other considerations.
- Abide by the rules of the game.
- Strive to develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual respect.
- Have regard for the code when working with young players in the game.
- Guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Ensure that the activities and strategies they direct and advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players involved.
- Clarify with the players (and where the players are under the age of 18, their parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from the Coach/Mentor.
- Co-operate with specialists within the game e.g. other coaches, officials, sport scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists, etc. in the best interest of players.
- Be knowledgeable with the laws of the game and the rules of any competition in which a team under their stewardship is participating.
- Encourage players to adhere to the club's code of conduct for players.
- Observe the highest standards of integrity and fair dealing.
- Promote a positive approach to the game e.g. fair play, honest endeavour and genuine teamwork.
- Consistently display high standards of behaviour and comment.
- Demonstrate due respect towards match officials.
- Accept the decisions of the match officials

## **As a Coach/mentor in Galway Bohemians AFC I will not:**

- Place excessive pressure on children to perform to unrealistically high expectations.
- Subscribe to the ethos of "win at all costs".
- Exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Verbally abuse players, match officials or opposing supporters. This cannot be accepted in any shape or form.
- Use or tolerate the use of inappropriate language.
- Encourage or condone violations of the laws of the game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the game, or the use of questionable strategies or tactics.
- Encourage or condone the use of prohibited substances.
- Never regard players or match officials as fair targets for ignorant or abusive behaviour.
- Criticise a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning.

In Galway Bohemians AFC we want children to have fun and develop skills in a safe and Fair Play environment where standards of behaviour are just as important as winning. We recognise that competition and winning is an important goal but winning at all costs does not meet the needs of young players.

Galway Bohemians AFC are aware that recent research would suggest that increasing numbers of children are leaving sport between the ages of eight and thirteen. A number of the most common reasons given were that sport was no longer fun, they did not get to play and an overemphasis on winning. Therefore, we must make every effort to ensure that we keep a balanced approach to competition, make sure all players get a chance to play and strive to keep the fun in soccer.

## **Children in Galway Bohemians AFC are entitled to:**

- Be safe
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Participate in soccer on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability and stage of development.
- Galway Bohemians AFC have decided that all players are entitled to a minimum playing time of 15 minutes per match. (Consult League rules in this regard) Criteria for team selection should be clearly defined.
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy soccer
- Make a complaint in an appropriate way and have it dealt with through a proper and effective complaints procedure
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality
- Be listened to and to be believed
- Have a voice in the running of the club

## **Making sport fun.**

In promoting "Sport for Fun" we in Galway Bohemians AFC will insist on:

- Encouraging participation and fun
- Promoting the development of skills as opposed to winning at all costs
- Ensure a minimum playing time of 15 minutes per match per player (time may vary according to League Rules)
- Emphasising and praising effort
- Acting as a good role models
- Insisting on Fair Play (we will take off offending players)
- Being realistic with our expectations
- Being aware of childrens feelings
- Teaching players to respect different cultures
- Teaching players that standards of behaviour are just as important as winning