



GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA INC.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

The Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia and its affiliated associations and Clubs takes the position that sexual relationships between coaches and the adult athletes that they coach should be avoided. The Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia and its affiliated associations and Clubs takes the view that such relationships while not necessarily constituting unlawful harassment, can have harmful effects on the individual athlete involved, on other athletes and coaches, and on the sport's public image. Such relationships tend to be intentionally or unintentionally exploitative because there is usually a disparity between coaches and athletes in terms of authority, power, maturity, status and dependence. The Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia's policy position is similar to other organisations who disallow professionals such as teachers, doctors and counsellors to have sexual relationships with their clients or students.

Should a sexual relationship develop between an athlete and coach, the Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia or affiliated association will investigate whether any action against the coach is necessary. Factors that may be relevant to consider are the age and maturity of the athlete relative to the coach, the financial or emotional dependence of the athlete on the coach, and the likelihood of the relationship having any adverse impact on the athlete and/or other athletes. If it is determined that the sexual relationship is inappropriate, action may be taken to stop the coaching relationship with the athlete. Action may include transfer, a request for resignation or dismissal from coaching duties.

In the event that an athlete attempts to initiate an intimate sexual relationship, the coach must take personal responsibility for discouraging such approaches, explaining the ethical basis for such action. The coach may wish to approach the Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia's or affiliates MPIO or complaints officer or other designated person if they feel harassed.

The law is always the minimum standard for behaviour within The Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia and therefore sex with a child is a criminal offence.

Guidelines for handling complaints related to this policy are detailed in the association's Member Protection Policy.

