



GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

JUNIOR (UNDERAGE) SPORTS POLICY

THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF JUNIOR SPORT PARTICIPANTS.

All junior members of the GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA have the right to:

- Enjoy sporting activities.
- Be treated with dignity.
- Experience a wide range of physical activities and sports.
- Proper preparation for sport participation.
- Participate at a level commensurate with their maturity and ability.
- Play according to rules and values appropriate to their level of development.
- Skilled and qualified leadership.
- Safe and healthy sporting environments.
- Share in leadership and decision-making roles related to their sporting activities.
- Equal opportunity for successful participation

All members of the GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA also have a responsibility to practice good sporting behaviour. This means that they should:

- Play fairly and safely.
- Play by the rules.
- Co-operate with coach, teammates and opponents.
- Abide by decisions, without argument or bad temper.
- Applaud all good play, by own team and opponents.
- Not engage in practices that affect sporting performance e.g. alcohol/tobacco/drug use.

THE ROLE OF COACHES AND TEACHERS IN THE GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

Appropriately trained coaches and teachers are vital to quality junior sport development.

They have a special responsibility to foster positive attitudes towards physical activity and sport, and to help young people develop sporting skills. They are therefore, a powerful influence on the continued involvement of juniors in sport.

Junior sport coaches/teachers should:

- Encourage enjoyment of sport.
- Cater for varying levels of ability so that all juniors have a “fair go” (in practice and competition).
- Provide equal encouragement to girls and boys to participate, acquire skills and develop confidence.
- Recognise and cater for groups with special needs.
- Recognise exceptionally talented juniors and give them the opportunity to develop their full sporting potential.
- Prepare and conduct sessions based on sound coaching principles.
- Set realistic standards and objectives for their juniors.
- Put more stress on effort than outcome.
- Provide safe playing conditions.
- Educate juniors and parents on health and safety in sport.
- Ensure that the consequences of inappropriate behaviour are clearly understood.
- Keep up to date on junior sport coaching developments.
- Set an example of good sporting behaviour.