



ST MARY'S GAA ATHENRY - Away Trips and Overnight Stays Policy for working with children under the age of 18 years.

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| Revision date: 16.05.2018 | Approved by: | |
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Away Trips and Overnight Stays Policy.

Away Trips:

The Club has the following policy in place for travelling with young players. Parental or guardian consent must be obtained in writing before any young player/member can participate in any organized trip.

- Young players and their parents/guardians should sign a form agreeing to partake in away trips or overnight stays.
- Young players must be adequately supervised (approximately 1 Mentor to 8 players).
- There must be adult Mentors of each gender with mixed groups. Mentors travelling are required to be familiar with the agreed rules on smoking and on the consumption of alcohol. As a basic minimum, Mentors are required to avoid smoking while working with young players and must not consume alcohol or non-prescribed drugs while young players are in their care.

Overnight stays:

- A specific ratio of Mentors to young people should be agreed in advance (approximately 1 Mentor to 8 players). This ratio can vary depending on the age category of the young players and the type of activity they participate in.
- Ensure that the standard of accommodation is suitable for groups.
- Adults should never share a room with a young player. If exceptional or emergency circumstances so dictate, there should be more than one young person in the room with the adult.
- Where young people are sharing a room, it should be arranged that the same gender and age grouping are kept together.



Hosting a Visiting Club:

Hosting another Club means that prior planning is key to success. It is most important that the St. Mary's GAA Club presents itself in a very positive fashion when hosting visiting teams and extends a very warm welcome to these clubs that take the trouble to travel to Athenry to play in challenge matches. The Club is also keen to develop contacts with clubs from other counties. Any club visiting St. Marys GAA should leave with a very good impression of the Club. The following points should be considered:

- There should be contact with the visiting club well before they travel, with clear directions given on getting to our clubhouse and playing pitches. Mobile numbers should be exchanged in case difficulties or delays arise.
- Check with the visiting team whether there is to be any exchange of gifts, etc., and who is accompanying the team. Club Officers should be informed if senior officials such as Club Chairman or Secretary are in the traveling party.
- Pitches should be booked with the relevant games officers. Pitches should be properly marked, flagged and netted. Check with the visiting club re referees, most clubs are happy for mentors to referee matches. Have a back-up plan for bad weather.
- Ensure that a first-aid kit is available.
- The County Board should be notified so that the matches are covered for insurance purposes. Note that the County Board will not give permission for such fixtures if they result in a Galway club fixture not being played. If there is a clash make sure the Galway fixture can be played in advance.
- Advise the players about playing the game in a competitive but fair manner, respect for officials and the importance of exemplary behavior both on and off the field. It is the players that often give the best impression of the Club.
- Assign a mentor from within the squad to take care of catering. Parents should be asked to provide sandwiches, cakes, etc. Soft drinks can be ordered. The kitchen is available for use if hot food needs to be prepared, however, check that the kitchen is not already booked. Pizzas/Chips/Burgers may be ordered in but get approval beforehand from the relevant games officer and ensure to get a discount on large orders.



Hosting a Visiting Club Overnight:

- It is the responsibility of the Club to seek or provide suitable accommodation for the visiting Club.
- Host families must provide a safe and caring environment for young people.
- All houses must be checked for suitability by the Club.
- All adults in the host house must be Garda vetted.
- The Club should provide an itinerary of events to the host family.
- More than one young player should be placed in a host home.
- The host family should be made aware of any special needs/requirements of guest players.
- Guest players should not be asked to share a room with an adult or a member of the opposite sex.



Transport:

Transport is a central element of any trip. If teams avail of bus or coach transport and it is essential that all aspects of the transport arrangements are checked out and agreed in advance. Safety should be considered a priority always, regardless of the cost. The following should be considered:

- All vehicles used for transport should be well maintained, roadworthy, have the proper safety equipment and should be properly taxed and insured.
- Hired transport should be fully accessible for people with disabilities.
- When travelling on buses, coaches or cars, passengers must remain seated always and wear seat belts.
- Alternative access to transport should be available in case of emergency.
- Vehicles should be equipped with a First Aid Kit and a fire extinguisher and Mentors of the group should be familiar with how to use them.
- When hiring a bus or coach, information should be sought regarding the company's safety standards, reputation and reliability.