



MAN O'WAR GAA CLUB JUVENILE GAMES POLICY

Version 1

This policy was ratified and adopted at the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Signed: *Freeman Morgan* (Chairperson)
Date: *18/11/17*

To be reviewed on 1st June 2018

Man O'War GAA Club - Juvenile Games Policy

1. Club Policy for Mentors of Juvenile teams

Mentors are required to volunteer their services to organise training and games for our juveniles. It is club policy that mentors should be trained in coaching methods to a level appropriate to the team being mentored.

- All mentors should be members of the club.
- All mentors must be familiar, and comply, with the Man O'War GFC Code of Behaviour.
- All mentors working with U18 players must seek Garda Clearance. Procedures are outlined under Garda Vetting Information Section on the Club website.
- One mentor from each group must ensure that ALL players are registered. Players who are not registered are NOT INSURED to train or to play. Mentors who are aware of children whose families are in financial difficulty should approach the chair of the relevant section to make suitable arrangements. In any event Juvenile players must register by February 28th each year at the latest. This rule must be strictly enforced in 2018 onwards. (The Registrar of the Juvenile sections is a particularly onerous voluntary position and needs your full support on this matter. Registration nights will be arranged to facilitate this process.)
- Maintenance and upkeep of all club facilities is the duty of all club members. Please ensure dressing rooms are swept and clean and that gates and facilities are locked after use.
- Please ensure that the young players are involved in maintaining our facilities. Twenty pairs of hands spending 5 minutes picking up litter is very effective. Parents should be encouraged to assist with the regular 'Clean-ups', where volunteers from across the club come together to help maintain the facilities.
- As new mentors are assigned to teams, support should be provided by the club and the next highest team to advise them on procedures for running Juvenile teams.
- Opportunities should be taken regularly to explain the Voluntary Ethos of the club to parents and players alike. Where a team has had the same set of mentors for a number of years, the introduction of a 'new' coaching voice should be encouraged by the committee and the mentors, especially when the players progress to Under 15 and Under 16.
- At the start of every season, equipment that is no longer suitable or required for that age group should be passed down to next age group.
- All mentors should be aware who the Children's Officer is and can refer to the club website for current information or to the notice board at the Clubhouse. The Children's Officer may also be contacted by email at: childrensofficer@manowargfc.com.

2. Playing up policy

A juvenile player should play with his/her age group if there is a team available at that age group. At times it may be necessary to supplement a team with a player from a younger team ('playing up'); e.g. an Under 13 player plays with an Under 14 team for games. While it may be necessary, such 'playing up' can de-motivate weaker players to the point where they will eventually give up playing if, for example, a player who is 'on the age' is continuously displaced by players from a younger team. Similarly a younger team can be weakened by the loss of players to an older team.

Club policy discourages 'playing up', but allows it where players are needed to make up a team for games only. 'Playing up' should not deprive players who are 'on the age' of getting a game.

Club policy on 'playing up' is outlined below:

- The allegiance of juvenile players for training and playing should firstly be to their own year group.
- The panel that a player is part of is determined by his age on January 1st, not by his class in school.
- If a player refuses to train or play with his own age-group, then he will be prohibited from playing up.
- Players nominated for 'playing up' must be selected from the team directly below - preference should be given to those players who are closest to the age.
- If there are no players available from team below, then players can be requested from teams up to two years below.
- A player is not allowed to play three or more ages up (e.g. an Under 11 playing on an Under 14 team) if substitutes are available.
- In team selection, preference should be given to players who train regularly and are 'on the age' - i.e. those who will be 'over-age' in that age group next year. If substitutes are available, then players who are 'on the age' should play at least half the game. Selectors may deviate from this policy if there is good reason not to select a player, other than the player's ability (e.g. indiscipline or poor attendance at training). In such cases, the player should be informed why he/she is not being selected.
- If a player is selected to 'play up', he/she must continue to train and play with his/her own age-group.
- When a team needs a player to 'play up', the coach must seek permission from the coach of the younger team to provide a player. The coach of the younger team decides which player is to be offered the chance to 'play up' and is responsible for communicating the offer to the parents of the player involved.
- The Chairperson of the Juvenile Committee may sanction exceptions to this policy.

It is recommended that the selection of players to 'play up' must follow the following guidelines:

- The coach must consult with the coaches of the other code if selecting a dual player.
- It is preferable to rotate the chance to 'play up' among players from the younger team. Players selected to 'play up' should be capable of competing at the higher age group.

3. Team Selection Policy

It is club policy that all players should be provided with an equal opportunity to play games regardless of ability.

- Players should not be discriminated against.
- Mentors' children should not be unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged; team selectors should preferably make impartial decisions.
- Regular attendance at training should be the key criterion for selection to play.

This policy is intended to be clear, consistent and fair and designed to foster both weak and strong players.

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