

Sample GAA Club Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Policy

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is committed as part of their overall philosophy to ‘discourage the use of drugs and tobacco and the misuse of alcohol on the basis that such activity is incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity’.

_____ Club believe that we need to work towards creating a safe, healthy club environment where we can develop the skills and attitudes necessary to cope with drug and alcohol related issues.

All club members, officials, coaches and volunteers as part of this club shall follow the law when it comes to illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco and shall display leadership and good example, particularly when dealing with underage members. This policy shall also apply to all users of the club buildings and grounds.

1. Definition of Drugs:

For the purpose of this policy the term “drug” shall include all mood altering substances, both legal and illegal and involve substances such as:

- Alcohol and Tobacco
- “Over the counter” medicines that may be misused such as those containing codeine (e.g. Solpadeine), cough medicines, antihistamines, laxatives, and paracetamol.
- Volatile substances such as aerosols, glues, petrol, cigarette lighter fuels etc.
- Products and substances sold online and in “headshops” that cause intoxication.
- Controlled drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, magic mushrooms, cocaine, etc.
- Performance enhancing sports related drugs as outlined by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

2. Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all club members are kept safe from drug-related harm when involved in club activities.

Our objectives are:

- To promote the health and wellbeing of all club members.
- To develop a consistent approach to drug-related issues to be adopted by all club members.
- To develop procedures and protocols that address drug-related issues in the club.
- To establish clear procedures for managing specific incidents of suspected drug misuse.

3. List of Actions (these are recommended and others can be inserted as required)

The Chairperson and Executive of the club shall adopt and discharge actions from following list in line with available resources and supports.

_____ Club shall take the following actions:

- Adhere to the motion passed at Congress 2014, resulting in the following addition to Rule 1.17 (b) (Playing Gear and Equipment) in Part 1 of the Official Rule Book, coming into effect as of January 1st, 2015: *No sponsorship of juvenile (U18) GAA*

teams or their gear take place by alcohol companies, public houses, or off license premises.

- Club members, officials, coaches and volunteers shall not present themselves at club-based activities while under the influence of alcohol or any other drug.
- No alcoholic drinks promotions (two-for-the price-of-one, promotional giveaways, reduced prices during matches etc) will take place in the clubhouse bar at any time. *(This is only relevant to clubs with licenced premises and is in line with recommendations issued by Coiste Bainistí in 2012.)*
- Coaches and Club Officials shall not smoke or drink alcohol while representing their club at matches or training sessions.
- All efforts shall be made to ensure Under 18 players/members are not brought to pubs following matches, outings or training sessions.
- Alcohol shall not be served at functions for players aged under 18 years of age.
- Every effort will be made to ensure juvenile medal ceremonies and other juvenile events are not held in pubs.
- Cups shall not be filled with alcohol during celebrations. Where possible, cups should be replaced with plaques.
- Cigarettes shall not be sold in the clubhouse.
- Alcohol and smoking will not be permitted in changing rooms.

All persons associated with our club can help prevent drug-related harm from occurring during club activities.

4. Recommended roles within club (insert other recommendations as required).

4.1. Club Members:

- Will be aware of the details of and adhere to _____ Club Drug and Alcohol Policy

4.2. Parents and Guardians:

- Support the club in the development and implementation of this policy including procedures for handling incidents of suspected drug misuse.

4.3. Coaches:

- Will be aware of the possibility of drug misuse among players and work with the Health & Wellbeing Club Officer, Club Chairman and Executives with the aim of preventing harm.

4.4. Health & Wellbeing Club Officer:

- Is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of this policy in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive.

- Shall have good knowledge of the local drug, alcohol and health promotion services in order to assist the club in organising prevention, education and response activities as such needs arise.
- The Health & Wellbeing Club Officer is _____

Phone no: _____

Email: _____

4.5. Club Chairperson and Executive:

- All relevant information, paraphernalia or suspected substances found or received shall be forwarded to the Club Chairperson who shall consult with the necessary parties before taking relevant action based upon this policy. In the event of the Chairperson not being available to discharge these duties this responsibility will then automatically fall to the Vice Chairperson or Secretary.

5. Education programme about drugs and alcohol

- The Club Health & Wellbeing Officer in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive shall make arrangements with local drug, alcohol or health promotion services to provide drug education annually for interested adults associated with the club.
- The Club Health & Wellbeing Officer in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive shall make arrangements with local drug, alcohol or health promotion services to provide age appropriate drug education annually for young people associated with the club.

6. Protocol for dealing with drug misuse:

_____ Club shall endeavour to respond to all drug-related incidents in a firm but fair manner, with due respect for the safety and welfare of individuals involved, other members of the club and the wider community and shall also fulfil any legal obligations that might apply.

- 6.1. The misuse or illegal supply of drugs is viewed as unacceptable by _____ Club and may be dealt with by way of warnings, suspensions and expulsions as deemed appropriate by decision of the Club Executive on a case by case basis. It is also unacceptable for members or officials to present themselves for club duties while under the influence of a drug. (Suspension, if issued, will mean that the member involved cannot represent the club in any way during their term of suspension.)
- 6.2. In a case where a club member has been charged with the illegal supply of drugs the Executive will ask this individual to stand aside from club activities until the matter has been dealt with in the court of law, notwithstanding the individual's right of a presumption of

innocence until proven guilty.

(Any matter involving a member being charged with the illegal supply of drugs **MUST** be brought to the attention of the County ASAP Officer and the Community & Health Manager in Croke Park, who can give guidance on the appropriate response on a case by case basis.)

7. Appeal and Review process

A member so suspended will have the right of appeal to the Hearings Committee of the County Executive where a member of the club executive and the suspended member will have the right to be heard. Normal Standing orders will apply to such a meeting.

8. Reporting of Incidents

Alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be referred to the Club Chairperson and Health & Wellbeing Club Officer. Matters relating to the supply of drugs **MUST** also be brought to the attention of the County ASAP Officer and the Community & Health Manager in Croke Park, who can give guidance on the appropriate response on a case by case basis.

8.1. Recording of Information

Information regarding alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be recorded in writing. The recording of factual information only is preferable and all opinions shall be stated as such. Responses to cases shall also be recorded in this way. Only in confirmed cases shall names of individuals be recorded.

8.2. Confidentiality

While it is not possible to guarantee, every effort shall be made to respect confidentiality.

8.3. Involving Parents/Guardians

Incidents involving any person under 18 years of age will require their parents/guardians to be informed. Parents/guardians shall be invited to discuss what has happened and shall be informed of any course of action to be taken by the club. The Club Chairperson shall nominate a person to inform parents/guardians in each case.

8.4. Garda Síochána/PSNI Involvement

Incidents that involve the illegal supply of drugs shall require Garda Síochána/PSNI involvement. In all other drug-related incidents, each case shall be considered on an individual basis and the decision shall rest with the Club Chairperson as to whether or not the Garda Síochána/PSNI is involved.

9. Search

The Club Chairperson retains the right to direct a search of any part of club property if there is reasonable cause to believe a substance in breach of this policy is contained therein. Two officials of the club shall conduct the search. **Club Officials are not allowed to search an individual or their personal property.** Where there is reasonable cause to believe a person has in their possession a substance in breach of this policy, they shall be asked to volunteer the substance. If they refuse, the Garda Síochána/PSNI may be called in to conduct a search.

9.1. Disposing of suspected illegal substances

If a suspected illegal substance is found on club property it should be brought to the attention of the Club Chairperson. The substance shall be stored securely and the Chairperson shall contact Garda

Síochána/PSNI to have it collected or to inform them who from the club will deliver it to them and when. Any movement of suspected illegal substances shall be recorded and witnessed by two club officials. At no time shall a suspected illegal substance be removed from club property without the knowledge of the Garda Síochána/PSNI.

10. Availability, use and storage of solvents and gases

Many solvent based products have the potential to be abused (e.g. deodorants, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids etc). All solvent based materials and gases shall be stored securely and safely away from public access.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is in force at all times and during all activities conducted under the aegis of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. This policy shall be evaluated annually and after every drug-related incident.

This policy shall come into effect on ____ \ ____ \ ____ and shall be reviewed annually thereafter by the Health & Wellbeing Club Officer in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive.

Signed _____ Club Chairperson

Date ____ \ ____ \ ____

Signed _____ Club Health & Wellbeing Officer

Date ____ \ ____ \ ____