



Mayobridge GAC

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Cumann Luthchleas Gael are committed as part of their overall philosophy to 'discourage the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco on the basis that they are incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity'.

Mayobridge GAC believe that we need to work towards creating a safe and 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 apply to all users of the club buildings and grounds.

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
- Tobacco
- Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics, inhalers, painkillers etc.
- Performance enhancing sports related drugs as outlined by the World Anti-Doping Agency.
- Volatile substances such as aerosols, glues, petrol, cigarette lighter fuels etc.
- Products and substances sold online and in "head shops" that cause intoxication.
- "Over the counter" medicines such as paracetamol, anti-histamines, cough medicines etc.
- Controlled drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, magic mushrooms, cocaine etc.

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 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.

List of Actions

The Chairperson and Executive of the Club shall adopt and discharge actions from the following list as appropriate to the resources of the Club.

Mayobridge GAC shall take the following actions:

- Cups/trophies shall not be filled with alcohol during underage celebrations.
- Coaches and Club Officials shall not smoke or drink alcohol while representing their Club at matches or training sessions.
- Club members, officials, coaches and volunteers shall not present themselves at Club activities while under the influence of an illegal drug or alcohol.
- Under 18's shall not be brought to pubs on the way to or from matches, outings or training sessions.
- Alcohol shall not be served at functions for players aged under 18 years of age.
- Under 18's may attend annual dinner dances/prizegiving events preferably under parental supervision and should adhere to the laws that apply to that particular establishment.
- Alcohol shall not be permitted in Club changing rooms.

Recent Guidelines (August 2012)

- GAA clubs with licensed premises are asked to observe responsible selling of alcohol at all times.
- Under no circumstances are alcoholic drinks promotions e.g.; price reductions for specific time periods, two for one drink offers or happy hours, to be carried out in licensed GAA premises. Such promotions increase the likelihood of 'binge-drinking' which impacts negatively on an individual's health in both short and the long term.
- Text messaging services, club websites and social media are not to be used to issue any information to club members relating to alcohol promotions on GAA club grounds or elsewhere.

All persons associated with our Club can help prevent drug-related harm from occurring during Club activities. The following roles are recommended:

Club Members

- Will be aware of the details of and adhere to ***Mayobridge GAC*** policy in relation to drugs.

Parents and Guardians

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

Coaches

- Will be aware of the possibility of drug misuse among players and work with the A.S.A.P. Club Officer, Club Chairperson and Executives with the aim of preventing harm.

A.S.A.P. Club Officer

- The A.S.A.P. Club Officer is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of this policy in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive.

- The A.S.A.P. Club Officer shall have a good knowledge of the local drug, alcohol and health promotion services in order to assist the club in organizing prevention, education and response activities as such needs arise.
- The Club A.S.A.P. Officer is Sean McElroy Phone no: 07771855829

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.

Education Programme about Drugs and Alcohol

Mayobridge GAC shall arrange for a drug education programme for members, players, parents etc as appropriate. This drug education programme may include the promotion of Club policy, provision of literature, workshops or information sessions.

- The Club A.S.A.P. 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 **adults** associated with the Club.
- The Club A.S.A.P. 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.

Protocol for Dealing with Drug Misuse

Mayobridge GAC 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.

Outline of Restrictions

The misuse or supply of drugs is viewed as unacceptable by **Mayobridge GAC** and is punishable by warnings, suspensions and expulsions as deemed appropriate. It is also unacceptable for members or officials to present themselves for club duties while under the influence of an illegal drug or alcohol.

Reporting of Incidents

Alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be referred to the Club Chairperson.

Recording of Information

Information regarding alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be recorded in writing. The recording of factual information 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.

Confidentiality

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

Involving Parents/Guardians

Incidents involving any person under 18 years of age will require their parents/guardians to be informed. Parents/guardians are required to be present during any interview or search and shall be made aware 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.

PSNI Involvement

Incidents that involve the illegal supply of drugs shall require 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 PSNI are involved.

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 PSNI may be called upon to conduct a search.

Disposing of Suspected Illegal Substances

If a suspected illegal substance is found on Club property it shall be brought to the attention of the Club Chairperson. The substance shall be stored securely and the Club Chairperson shall then decide whether the PSNI should be called to collect it or whether it should be disposed of. Any disposal of suspected illegal substances shall be recorded and witnessed by two officials. At no time shall a suspected illegal substance be removed from Club property without the knowledge of the PSNI.

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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is in force at all times and during all activities conducted under the support of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. This policy shall be evaluated annually and after every drug-related incident. This policy shall come into effect on 23 - 6 - 16 and shall be reviewed annually thereafter by the Club A.S.A.P. Officer in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive.

This policy must be approved by the County Committee and the County Officer, with copies of the policy going to the A.S.A.P. National Office and the A.S.A.P. County Officer.

Signed



Club Chairperson

Date

22 - 6 - 16

Signed



A.S.A.P. Club Officer

Date

22 - 6 - 16

- To ensure that all those who participate in Gaelic Games, at all levels and roles, receive fair and equitable treatment.
- To ensure that the format and content of all competitions, regulations and assessments provide equality for all, except where specific situations and conditions properly or reasonably prevent this.
- To ensure that all materials prepared, produced and distributed by, or on behalf of, the club promote a clear image of the profile of all those who involved in the games.

Responsibility

The Club expects all those acting on behalf of the Association to adhere to this policy. In pursuance of this policy the Club Executive Committee reserve the right to discipline any of its members or employees who practice any form of discrimination on the grounds of a person's age, gender, ability, race, religion ethnicity, creed, nationality, social status or sexual orientation

Declaration

This document has been approved by the Club Executive Committee and serves as the working Equal Opportunities document of the club.

Signed (Cathaoirleach) 

Signed (Rúnaí) 

