

# Sports Code of Conduct Policy

## DONABATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



This Policy is to be reviewed by the Board of Management every three years.

This Policy was agreed on:

29/4/2025

Signature:

M. Farrell

(Chairperson to the Board of Management)

## **Donabate Community College**

Donabate Community College is a post primary college, which opened in August 2008 under the Patronage of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB). The college is co-educational and aspires towards excellence in a caring and supportive environment.

The Board of Management is committed to the successful implementation of recent legislation, in particular the Education Act (1998), the Education (Welfare) Act (2000) and the Equal Status Act (2000). The Board fully subscribes to the principles of partnership, accountability, transparency, inclusion and respect for diversity, parental choice and equality.

## **College Mission**

The Board of Management will promote Excellence. Our aim will be to create, with the assistance of parents/guardians, responsible citizens with pride in their community. The development of the whole person will be based on personal responsibility, inter dependence, respect for people and respect for property. Our college will seek to instil integrity, value discipline and punctuality and facilitate the best in academic and non-academic areas. We will value our culture, our tradition, be inclusive of religious beliefs and will seek to be a caring and compassionate community where justice and truth will be the central elements.

## **Policy Review and Ratification**

Donabate Community College is committed to ongoing policy review to ensure clarity, relevance, and compliance with current legislation and best practices. Where amendments to a policy are of a minor or administrative nature and do not alter its overall meaning, purpose, or intent, the school may proceed to seek ratification from the Board of Management without further consultation with stakeholders. However, where substantive changes are proposed that impact the policy's intent, scope, or application, appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken before submission to the Board of Management for ratification.

## **Aim**

The aim of this code of conduct is to provide a set of guidelines for all stakeholders involved in sport at Donabate Community College. This code will ensure fair competition and appropriate behaviour during sporting events. This code is applicable to both match and practice situations.

## **The Code of Conduct is designed to**

- Promote an ethos of making sport accessible, safe and enjoyable for everyone.
- Encourage participation in sport in order to improve confidence, psychological wellbeing and physical fitness.
- Remind parents, coaches and referees that students play sport for enjoyment and personal development and that teamwork and sportsmanlike behaviour are more important than winning.
- Protect players, coaches, spectators and parents from any form of abuse.
- Promote the good reputation of Donabate Community College in the wider community.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Students should**

- Remember that participation in sport is a privilege, and that you are expected to represent your school, coach and team-mates with honour and dignity at all times.
- Remember that involvement in sport should enhance school life and never detract from academic performance. Students who miss class due to involvement in sport are obliged to complete classwork and homework assigned in their absence.
- Participate and compete following the rules of the event.
- Refrain from any foul play or poor conduct (including swearing and arguing with the referee).
- Refrain from boastful or arrogant behaviour and always applaud good play from both their own team and the opposition.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Treat all match officials and coaches with respect.
- Accept the coach's decision with regard to the team selection with grace.
- Be positive in making comments with their team mates and should be encouraging at all times, acting as a role model regardless of position within the team.

- Wear the correct team kit and protective gear as dictated by the school and travel to games in appropriate school uniform.
- Attend all practice sessions and matches unless they have a note. Coaches should always be informed well in advance of any absences before the practice/match.
- Be aware that on match days they are not permitted to leave the sporting grounds except in exceptional circumstances and then only with the permission of the coach in charge.
- Inform their coach immediately if they develop an injury/illness/condition prior to or during a sports event/fixture.
- Follow the schools Code of Positive Behaviour when participating in sporting activities.

### **Coaches should**

- Remember that students participate in sport for pleasure and that winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or criticise a student for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every student regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Be reasonable in demands on students' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport and teach students to do the same.
- Ensure that the time students spend with you is a positive experience. All students are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all students.
- Inform players of the arrangements for match fixtures which includes standard of dress, time of start and team selection.
- Refrain from using inappropriate language at all times.
- Show appropriate concern and caution towards sick and injured students. Follow the advice of a doctor or physiotherapist when determining whether an injured student is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and principles.

### **Parents should**

- Remember that students participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage students to participate, do not coerce them.

- Provide positive focus on the student's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage students to always participate according to the rules.
- Teach students the value of sportsmanship and fair play.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every student regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the officials' decisions and teach students to do likewise.
- Never use offensive language, or threaten players, coaches, referees, umpires or other spectators.
- Respect the coach's decision in making team selection decisions and understand that it is the coach's right to select whom he/she believes to be the most appropriate team in the circumstances.
- Respect the opposition players and coaches.
- Ensure that the student owns and wears the correct sporting uniform to practices and matches.
- Communicate any concerns or issues through the correct channels.

### **Breach of Code**

In implementing the Sports Code of Conduct as outlined above the Board of Management endeavour to ensure that all students partake in and benefit from the participation in extra-curricular sport. However, any serious breach of this code will be dealt with by one or more of the following: Teacher, Coach, Year Head, Deputy Principal, Principal or Board of Management.