

CLUB DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR LETTERKENNY GAELS GAA CLUB

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’.

Letterkenny Gaels GAA 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.

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.
- ‘Over the counter’ medicines such as paracetamol, anti- histamines, cough medicines etc.
- Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics, inhalers, painkillers etc.
- Volatile substances such as aerosols, glues, petrol, cigarette lighter fuels etc.
- Controlled drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, magic mushrooms, cocaine etc.
- Performance enhancing sports related drugs as outlined by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

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 for suspected drug misuse.

List of Recommended 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.

Letterkenny Gaels GAA Club shall take the following actions:

- The cup shall not be filled with alcohol during celebrations.

- Coaches and Club Officials shall not smoke or drink alcohol while representing their club at matches or training sessions.
- Cigarettes shall not be sold in the clubhouse.
- Medal ceremonies for under 18's shall not be held in pubs.
- Under 18's shall not be brought to pubs on the way home from matches, outings or training sessions.
- Alcohol shall not be served at functions for players aged under 18 years of age.
- Alcohol advertisements shall be phased out on club jerseys.

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

Club Members

- Be aware of and adhere to Letterkenny Gaels GAA Club 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

- Be aware of the possibility of drug misuse among players and pass on concerns with the aim of preventing harm.

Club A.S.A.P. 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 Club ASAP Officer is Jim Farrell. Phone 074 - 9103753 086 0566893.

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

Letterkenny Gaels GAA Club shall arrange 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 arrange 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 arrange to provide **age appropriate** drug education **annually** for **young people** associated with the Club.

Protocol for dealing with drug misuse

Letterkenny Gaels GAA 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. We shall also fulfil any legal obligations that might apply.

Outline of Restrictions

The misuse or supply is viewed as unacceptable by Letterkenny Gaels GAA Club and is punishable by warnings, suspensions and expulsions as deemed appropriate. It is also unacceptable for members or officials to present for club duties while under the influence of a drug.

Reporting of Incidents

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

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 every effort shall be made to respect confidentiality, it may not always be possible to guarantee confidentiality in relation to drug-related incidents. It is vitally important that confidentiality is carefully observed as allegations about involvement with drugs can have ruinous effects on peoples lives.

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 and Executive shall nominate a person to inform parents/guardians on a case by case basis.

Garda Involvement

Incidents that involve the illegal supply of drugs shall require Garda 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 and Executive as to whether or not An Garda Síochána are involved.

Search

The Club Chairperson and Executive retain 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 be present during any form of 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 may be called in 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 Garda 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 by anyone other than the Garda.

Availability, use and storage of solvents and gases

A large number of solvent based products have the potential to be abused (eg deodorants, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids etc). All solvent based materials and gases shall be stored securely and safely away from public access.

Annual Review

This policy is in force at all times and during all activities conducted under the aegis of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. This policy shall be evaluated annually and after every drug-related incident. This policy shall come into effect on 9th September 2009 and shall be reviewed annually thereafter by the A.S.A.P. Club Officer in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive.

Signed: James Frain (Club Chairperson) Signed: Jim McGlynn (Club Secretary)

Signed: Jim Farrell (ASAP Club Officer)