

# Naomh Mochua Doire Nuís GAC



## Drug Alcohol and Abuse Policy

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### **Introduction**

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

Doire Nuís GAC believe that we need to create a safe and healthy club environment where members can develop the knowledge, 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 guidelines when it comes to illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

### **Definition of Drugs**

‘A drug is a substance taken by people to change how they think, feel or behave.’ These include both legal and illegal substances such as:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics, inhalers, painkillers etc
- Performance enhancing drugs as outlined by the World Doping Agency
- Volatile substances such as aerosols, glues, petrol cigarette lighter fuel etc
- 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 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 develop ways to address drug related issues within the club
- To establish clear procedures for managing drug related incidents

### **List of Actions**



The Chairperson and Executive Committee shall adopt and discharge actions from the following list as appropriate to the resources of the club:

- Alcohol advertisements shall not be used on underage club jerseys.
- Cups will not be filled by any member of bar staff during celebrations
- Coaches and club officials shall not smoke or drink while representing their club at matches or trainings
- Club members, officials, coaches and volunteers shall not present themselves at club activities while under the influence of any drug
- Alcohol shall not be served at functions for players under 18 with the exception of special presentations given at an annual presentation night.
- At any function where there by a young person(15-17yrs) is assisting as waiter staff, two members of the club will be designated to supervise at all times.

### **Recommended Roles**

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

- Club Members – will be aware of the details and adhere to the Club Alcohol and Abuse Policy
- Parents and Guardians – will 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 Club Wellness Officer, Chairperson and Committee members with the aim of preventing harm
- Club Wellness Officer – is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of this policy in conjunction with the Chairperson and Executive Committee.

### **The Club Wellness Officer - Mark Mc Kernan**

The Club Wellness Officer in conjunction with the Executive Committee shall make arrangements for drug education for all members. This may include the promotion of club policy, provision of literature, workshops or information sessions provided by local health promotion services.

### **Protocol for Dealing with Drug Misuse**

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



1. Alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be referred to the Club Chairperson or in his absence the vice chairperson and Club Wellness Officer
2. Information regarding incidents shall be recorded in writing outlining facts as far as possible. Responses to cases shall also be recorded in this way. Only in confirmed cases will names of individuals be recorded.
3. While it is not always possible to guarantee, every effort will be made to respect confidentiality.
4. Incidents involving any person under 18 will require their parents/guardians to be informed. They shall be invited to discuss what has happened and shall be informed of any course of action to be taken by the club.
5. Incidents that involve the illegal supply of drugs shall require PSNI involvement.

The misuse or supply of drugs is viewed as unacceptable by Doire Nuis GAC and members are prohibited for presenting themselves for club duties while under the influence of a drug. Breaches of these restrictions are punishable by warnings, suspensions and expulsions as deemed necessary.

The Club Chairperson along with the Club Wellness Officer and Executive Committee retain the right to direct a search of club property if there is reasonable cause to believe a substance in breach of this policy is contained therein. Two club officials will conduct the search. They are not permitted to search an individual or their personal property. Where there is reasonable cause to believe a person is in possession, they shall be asked to volunteer the substance. If they refuse the PSNI may be called on to conduct the search.

If a suspected illegal substance is found on club property it shall be brought to the attention of the Club Chairperson and it shall then be disposed of or reported to the PSNI. Two club officials will witness and record the disposal. At no time is a suspected illegal substance to be removed from Club Property without the knowledge of the PSNI.

This policy is in force at all times and during all activities conducted under the aegis of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. This Policy shall be reviewed annually by the Club Wellness Officer in conjunction with the Chairperson and the Executive Committee.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Wellness Officer \_\_\_\_\_

This statement will be reviewed in September 2015

