



# Policy on Contacting Underage Players (Draft)

Clane GAA club adheres to the GAA good practice recommendations on the use of text messages or emails when passing on information for the attention of underage players. For that reason, the Club policy is explained below:

## What is Clane GAA club policy re texting/emailing information to underage players?

In line with the GAA policy we insist that when we pass on information regarding games, training or other activities for the attention of our under age players that we do so via group texts and that these group texts should be sent to the parents of underage players.

The same good practice guidance applies when using emails. The team Coach, Club Registrar or the Club Secretary should obtain these relevant contact numbers/emails when an underage player is being registered on an annual basis. This recommendation only applies to underage players i.e. under 18 year of age.

## Are there any exceptions to the proposal on texting?

If, for whatever reason, a parent/guardian insists or requests that the information is sent directly by the club to their child and gives this request in writing the club may, if they so wish, accede to this request. However, if the club accedes to the request the information can only be sent as part of a group text and cannot be communicated individually to the underage player. A parental or guardian request to have such information sent directly to their child may be refused by the Club in the interest of good practice.

**Clane GAA Club regards the individual texting of an underage player by their coach or mentor as being inappropriate and unacceptable.**

## How do we interpret an underage player?

An underage player is a person who is eligible to play in a game or event for persons under 18 years of age. Legislation in Ireland also defines a child as any person under 18 years of age and parents/guardians therefore have a particular level of responsibility for their child's welfare while



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Issue No. 1

Issue date:  
01/03/2017

Page 2 of 2

they remain under 18 years of age. (We use the terms child and young person frequently when we refer to under age players.)

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