

## Policy when communicating with Under-Age Players & Use of Mobile Phones

Kildorrery GAA understands and respects the importance that Parents and Guardians place on the use of mobile phones as a means of contacting their children when away from the home setting. However, there are times that the use of mobile phones must be limited in order to protect all children within the club. For this reason we have placed the following limitations on the use of cell phones in our club activities;

- It is recommended that children are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to training sessions to avoid loss and damage.
- It is the responsibility of Parents, Guardians and Children to ensure that mobile phones are kept in a safe and secure place at all times.
- The club holds no responsibility for mobile phones lost or stolen.
- Children are forbidden to use mobile phones, and, in particular, picture/video phones in dressing rooms.
- The misuse of mobile phones will be taken seriously by all club members and persistent misuse will be brought to the attention of the Child Protection Officer to be actioned.
- Coaches should not use internet sites e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat etc, to communicate with young players.
- It is strongly recommended that when information is passed on regarding games, training or other activities for under age players that it is done via group text and email and that these group texts and emails **should preferably be sent to the parents of under age players**. Coaches and or the Club Secretaries should obtain these relevant contact numbers when an under age player is being registered. This recommendation only applies to underage players i.e. under 18 year of age.
- If, for whatever reason, a Parent or 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 or email and cannot be communicated individually to the under age player.
- Kildorrery GAA would regard the individual texting or emailing of an under age player by their coach or mentor as being inappropriate and unnecessary. We do not wish to compromise the role of the coach and its best not to communicate by mobile telephone in such instances where the coach would have the personal telephone number of a child and the child or young person could equally have access to the coach's telephone number as well.
- If an underage player is on the club's senior panel, the same recommendation applies and Parental and Guardian permission must be sought if you wish to directly communicate with the young person as part of a group text or email scheme.