



## Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC



### **Policy on texting/emailing information to underage players**

Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC adopts the GAA good practice recommendations on the use of text messages or emails when passing on information for the attention of underage players.

When Club members pass on information regarding games, training or other activities for the attention of our underage players we will do so via group texts and 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 Rúnaí 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.

#### **Exceptions to the policy 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.

Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC would regard 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 under age player is a person who is eligible to play in a game or event for persons under 18 years of age. Legislation 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 they remain under 18 yrs of age. (We use the terms child and young person frequently when we refer to underage players.)



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### Texting county underage development squads and minor squads?

The recommended group text mechanism is still preferred but if you have parental/guardian permission to group text underage players you may avail of this option.

### What if an underage player is on the club's senior panel?

The same recommendation applies and parental/guardian permission must be sought if you wish to directly communicate with the young person as part of a group text scheme.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Signed: David McPhee Date: 4/7/23 Chairman

Signed: Róisín Keenan Date: 4/7/23 Children's Officer