



Constitution of Fr. Casey's GAA Club.

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1. In these Rules:

- 1.1. **“The G.A.A.”** means the National Governing Organisation for the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes, known as the Gaelic Athletic Association.
- 1.2. **“The Club”** means the Club as set out in Rule 2 hereof.
- 1.3. **“The Official Guide”** means the Official Guide of the G.A.A.
- 1.4. **“Executive Committee”** means Officers and ordinary Committee Members together.
- 1.5. **“Secretary”** means the Secretary for the time being, or any person appointed to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Club.
- 1.6. **“Real Property”** means the property of the Club of an immovable nature, comprising any Playing Pitches, Grounds or Buildings, whether of Leasehold or Freehold tenure, with all Fixtures or Fittings attached thereto and used therewith.
- 1.7. **“Personal Property”** means the property of the Club of a movable nature, comprising all Playing or Sporting equipment of the Club, as well as all Stock in Trade and Money or other Assets of the Club not already classified as fixtures or fittings on “Real Property”, as heretofore defined.
- 1.8. **“Words”** importing the singular number only, include the plural number and vice versa, and words importing the masculine gender only, also include the feminine and vice versa.

2. Name

- 2.1. The official Name of the Club shall be An Cumann Lúthcleas Gael An t-Athar Uí Chathasaigh and the English version of which shall be Fr. Casey’s GAA Club hereinafter called “the Club”.

3. Objectives

- 3.1. The objectives of the Club shall be the promotion of the aims of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, as outlined in the Official Guide.
- 3.2. The Membership, Income and Property of the Club shall be dedicated to and applied solely towards the promotion of these objectives.

4. Colours

- 4.1. The official playing colours of the Club shall be blue Jersey, white shorts and blue and white striped socks.

5. Membership

5.1. There shall be four types of Membership of the Club:

5.1.1. FULL MEMBERSHIP, which shall be for a period of not less than one year, may be granted to persons Over 18 years (i.e. shall have celebrated their 18th birthday prior to January 1st of the Membership Year) who pay the agreed subscription and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A. Such full members shall be registered with the County Registrar.

5.1.2. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Under 18 who pay the agreed subscription and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A. They shall not be entitled to vote or engage in the management or control of the Club.

5.1.3. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Over 18 years, who have rendered exceptional service to the Club or the games or activities of the G.A.A. Their membership shall terminate at the close of the current year but may be renewed by the Executive Committee from year to year. An Honorary Member shall have the rights of a Full Member, but shall be exempt from paying the Club's Annual Membership Fee.

5.1.4. SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Over 18 years, who pay the agreed subscription and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A., but who do not seek full voting rights and rights to take part in the administrative affairs of the Club or the G.A.A. Social members cannot be current players on any Fr. Caseys' teams.

5.1.5 PRESIDENTS' MEMBERSHIP may be granted to persons Over 18 years who pay the agreed subscription and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A. Their membership shall terminate at the close of the current year but may be renewed by the Executive Committee from year to year.

5.1.6. LIFE MEMBERS do not have full voting rights and any rights to take part in the administrative affairs of the Club or the G.A.A.

5.2. Full Members (including Honorary Members) and Youth Members of the Club will also become Members of the G.A.A.

5.3. Membership of the Club and the G.A.A. shall continue for the current year, unless the member has been expelled or his resignation in writing has been accepted, in accordance with this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.

5.4. The rights of any member of the Club shall be conditional upon the member complying with the provisions of this Constitution and Rules and the Official Guide, including payment of any annual membership fee and levies.

5.5. Such rights may be withheld, restricted or suspended in accordance with this Constitution and Rules and the Official Guide.

5.6. The Executive Committee or any sub-committee appointed shall have the power to investigate any matter, and to warn, suspend, expel or disqualify Members from Club activities for breach of this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide or for conduct considered to have discredited or harmed the Club or the G.A.A. All related correspondences will be communicated by registered post.

5.7. Such persons, if Full Members (including Honorary Members) or Youth Members, shall have the right to appeal in writing to the Hearings Committee of the County Committee of the G.A.A., within seven days of being notified of such decision.

5.8. Unless the offence is brought to the notice of the County Committee of the G.A.A. by the Club, and that body, having considered the merits of the case and having regard to the rights of the player or member, confirms the penalty imposed, the member continues to be a legal member of the Association and is suspended from Club activities only.

5.9. Any person seeking first admission as a Member shall complete and sign a prescribed Application Form, which must be returned to the Secretary or any designated person by the Executive Committee together with the prescribed fee. The application will be proposed by one Full Member and seconded by another Full Member, who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.

5.10. An Application for Youth Membership must be on the Prescribed Form signed by the Applicant and one of his parents or Guardians, which must be returned to the Secretary or any designated person by the Executive Committee together with the prescribed fee.

5.11. The applicant will receive confirmation of the decision and the Executive Committees decision is final.

5.12. Persons shall not be admitted to any of the privileges of Membership until after their election by the procedures stated in this Rule.

5.13. If and when the Application for Membership has been accepted by the Executive Committee, the new Member's particulars shall be submitted by the Club Registrar to the Central Council, by the process of Electronic Registration, for Registration and allocation of a personal membership number.

5.14. A Notice or communication may be given by the Club to any Member either personally, by registered or unregistered post to the last known address or electronically.

6. Subscriptions

6.1. The Annual Subscription to be paid by members of the Club shall be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

6.2. Any member, other than Honorary member, whose annual subscription is not paid prior to March 1st in any calendar year shall cease to be a member on that date, and shall not be eligible to participate in the activities of any section of the Club, or to partake in any of the privileges attached to membership.

6.3. Any default in agreed payment methods will result in immediate cessation of membership and shall deem that person or persons ineligible to participate in the activities of any section of the Club, or to partake in any of the privileges attached to membership.

7. Executive Committee

7.1. The business and affairs of the Club shall be under the management of an Executive Committee and it shall be the controlling body of the Club.

7.2. Nominations to serve on the Executive Committee shall be by any two Registered Full Members whose membership fees are paid up to date and who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution.

7.3. Only Registered Full Members, who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

7.4. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the Registered Full Members present, entitled to vote and voting at the Annual General Meeting and nominations to serve on the Executive Committee shall be

by any two such Registered Full Members. **Exceptions:** The Children's Officer and the Officer for Irish Language and Culture shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the outgoing Executive Committee.

7.5. The Executive Committee shall hold office for a period of one year or until the following Annual General Meeting, whichever is sooner.

7.6. The outgoing Executive Committee shall conduct the Annual General Meeting.

7.7. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant/ Recording Secretary, Registrar, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Public Relations Officer, Children's Officer, Health and Welfare Officer, one Players' Representative and at least five Registered Full Members.

7.8. The Players' Representative shall have participated as a player for the Club within the previous 52 weeks.

7.9. The Executive Committee shall have the sole right to appoint sub-committees and retain control in all matters and activities which it considers of importance to the general welfare of the Club, including the disposal of any funds in the hands of such sub-committees.

7.10. The Executive Chairperson shall have power to nominate the Chairperson of such sub-committees.

7.11. The Executive Committee may prepare bye-laws for the proper control and management of the Club, which shall be submitted for ratification to an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Club. Alterations, deletions, or additions to such bye-laws may be made only at the following Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose.

7.12. The Executive Committee shall have power from time to time to make, alter and repeal all such Regulation as they deem necessary, expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Club.

7.13. The Executive Committee shall adopt such measures as they deem sufficient, to bring to the notice of members of the Club all such Regulations and all alterations.

7.14. All such Regulations so long as they shall be in force, shall be binding upon all the members of the Club, provided that they are consistent with what is contained within the Constitution. Any Regulations may be set aside by special resolution of a General Meeting of the Club.

7.15. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each quarter, and five shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

7.16. The Executive Committee shall administer the business affairs of the Club and the property under its control in accordance with the aims and objects specified in the Constitution, and shall have all such administrative powers as may be necessary for properly carrying out the aims and objects of the Club.

7.17. Members rights' will be dealt with in accordance with the Complaints Procedure Document.

7.18. A special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairperson or Secretary, for a date not more than seven days from the date of the receipt by him of a requisition duly signed by four members of the Executive Committee. Such requisition shall set out the purpose for which the special meeting is required.

7.19. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee but, in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside. If both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent, the Committee may elect a member present to preside at the meeting.

7.20. The Secretary or Assistant/ Recording Secretary shall record the Minutes of each Meeting. The Minutes shall specify the date of the Meeting, those present, and a brief account of the Meeting, and shall be read to the next Meeting. Such Minutes, if agreed as being accurate or having been appropriately amended, shall be signed by the Chairperson and Secretary, having been first proposed, seconded and adopted.

7.21. Any member of the Executive Committee who shall have absented himself from four consecutive meetings without reasonable explanation, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

7.22. Should any Member of the Executive Committee resign, be deemed to have resigned, or his position otherwise lapse, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall, at their discretion, have the power to fill the vacancy, by co-opting a replacement from the body of the Full Membership.

8. Voting

8.1. A Chairperson of a General Meeting, Executive Committee, or any Sub-Committee shall, in the event of a tie, whether on a show of hands or on a ballot have a casting vote.

8.2. Only Full Members who are over the age of eighteen on the 1st day of January preceding the Annual General Meeting, and whose subscriptions at the prescribed rate are not in arrears, shall be eligible to vote at a General Meeting, and voting shall be by a show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of such Registered Full Members.

9. General Meetings

9.1. Not less than five days' notice of all General Meetings, Annual or Special, shall be given by the Secretary to all Registered Full Members of the Club.

9.2. Not less than three days' notice of Executive Committee Meetings shall be given by the Secretary to elected members.

9.3. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held on or before 31st December, as arranged by the Executive Committee or in January in exceptional circumstances and by prior permission of the County Board.

9.4. In the case of the Annual General Meeting, all motions and nominations for Officer Positions must be submitted to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Nominated Persons must be present at the Annual General Meeting or declare their interest in writing to the Secretary if unable to attend.

9.5. The following business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:

9.5.1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting;

9.5.2. Chairpersons' Address

9.5.3. Annual Report submitted by the Secretary;

9.5.4. Financial Statement submitted by the Treasurer;

9.5.5. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee;

9.5.6. Notices of Motion;

9.5.7. Other Business.

9.6. A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called by the Secretary within fourteen days, if directed by the Executive Committee or demanded in writing by not less than twelve Registered Full Members, who in their requisition shall state the object of such meeting. No other business shall be transacted at that Special Meeting.

9.7. Twelve Registered Full Members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at a General or Special Meeting of the Club.

10. Assets and Trustees

10.1. The Club shall have power to acquire, hold and develop, lease, mortgage, charge, exchange or sell Real and Personal property, and to borrow or raise money in promotion of the objects of the Club, subject to the overall authority of the Central Council of the G.A.A.

10.2. Real Property shall not be transferred, sold, leased, conveyed, mortgaged, or otherwise charged or dealt with without the consent of the Central Council, as set out in the Declaration of Trust.

10.3. The Real Property of the Club shall be vested in five members of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael as Trustees, who shall hold same in accordance with the Charter, Constitution and Rules thereof, and subject to the covenants and conditions contained in the approved Declaration of Trust, and who shall sell, lease, mortgage or charge the said property when directed to do so and with the consent of the Central Council. The Executive Committee shall select the three Club Trustees who shall then be appointed by the President of the Provincial Council and the Chairperson of the County Committee, where appropriate.

10.4. The Personal Property of the Club shall vest in the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary for the time being of the Club, who shall hold same in trust for the Club. The Trustees shall invest the funds of the Club in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee, of which an entry in the minute book of the Club shall be conclusive evidence.

10.5. The Executive Committee shall open a bank account on behalf of the Club, and all cheques drawn on the account shall be signed by any 2 of the following officers, Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

10.6. Correct accounts and books shall be kept, showing the financial affairs and receipts and disbursement of the Club.

10.7. The Trustees of the real property and of the personal property for the time being shall be as set out in the Schedules to these Club Rules.

10.8. The Club shall indemnify and save harmless its Trustees in respect of any loss or expenses bona fide incurred by them in or about the execution of the Trust.

11. Compliance with provisions of official guide

11.1. This Club Constitution and Rules shall be read in conjunction with and subject to the general rules of Cummann Luthchleas Gael contained in the Official Guide.

12. Alterations of Rules

12.1. Alterations and additions to these club rules and Constitution may be made at any annual general meeting or at an extraordinary general meeting, providing that the resolution proposing same is carried by a vote of two thirds of the members present and voting.

12.2. Members wishing to propose alterations or additions to these club rules or Constitution must send notice of the proposed alterations or additions in writing or by email to the Secretary not later than fourteen days before the annual general meeting, as provided for in the rules.

13. Interpretation of club constitution and rules

13.1. The executive committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Club Constitution and Rules and of any bye-laws and regulations made thereunder, subject to appeal to a general meeting, and shall not under any circumstances be subject to appeal to any court of law.

14. Distribution of intoxicating liquor

14.1. Any sale, supply and consumption of excisable liquors in the building or grounds of the Club shall be in compliance with the current Intoxicating Liquor Acts.

15. Relevant Legislation

15.1. Recommendations and legislation have been adopted in relation to the Code of Ethics and Good practice of the club, Child Protection and Anti- bullying policies.

15.2. All works carried out by the club shall be subject to current planning regulations.

Code of Ethics & Good Practice
Of
Fr. Casey's GAA Club.

Core Values in Sport.

The work of Fr. Casey's GAA Club is based on the following principles that will guide the development of sport in this club,

- The experience of sport should be guided by what is best for the member.
- The stages of development and the ability of the person should guide the types of activity provided within the club.
- Adults will need to have a basic understanding of the needs of the younger members of the club, including physical, emotional and personal.

Integrity in relationships:

Adults interacting with young people in sport should do so with integrity and respect for the child. Likewise Adults interacting with other adults should do so with integrity and respect for each other. All adult actions in sport should be guided by what is best for the child and in the context of quality, open working relationships

Quality atmosphere and ethos

Sport activities should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. A child-centered ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

Equality

All children should be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children with disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated way.

Fair Play:

Fair play is the guiding principle of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sports.

Policy Statement

Fr. Casey's GAA Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Every individual in the Club should at all times, show respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport*.

In Fr. Casey's GAA Club our first priority is the welfare of the young people and we are committed to providing an environment which will allow participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation.

A balanced approach to competition can make a significant contribution to the development of young people, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and satisfaction

Code of Conduct for Young People/ Bord na Nog.

Fr. Casey's GAA Club wishes to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in the sport. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. These participants have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities that they must accept.

Young people should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and sports leaders with fairness and respect.

Young players are entitled to:

- Be safe and to feel safe
- Be listened to
- Be believed
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Participate on an equal basis
- Have fun and enjoy sport
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Make complaints and have them dealt with
- Get help against bullies
- Say No
- Confidentiality

Young players should always:

- Treat Sports Leaders/ coaches with respect,
- Play fairly at all times, do their best
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat
- Abide by the rules set down by team managers when travelling to away events.

- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing Fr. Casey's GAA and the sports of Gaelic football into disrepute.
- Talk to the children's officer / coach/ Health and Welfare Officer or any responsible adult if they have any problems or concerns.

Young players should never:

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- Shout or argue with officials, team mates or opponents
- Harm team members, opponents or their property
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player
- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage
- Take banned substances
- Keep secrets especially if they cause harm
- Tell lies about adults / young people
- Spread rumours.

Code of Conduct for Parents

Fr. Casey' GAA Club believes that parents should....

Be excellent role models and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, officials and organisers.

Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect the game / player

Never intentionally expose any young participant to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks

Always recognise the value and importance of the volunteers who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for your child. Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of referees, coaches or organisers. Respect referees, coaches, organisers and other players.

Encourage your child to play by the rules. Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship.

Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides. Encourage mutual respect for teammates and opponents.

Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive language, unacceptable behaviour and bullying conduct in all its forms.

Guidelines for Sports Leaders/ Coaches

Leaders/coaches should strive to create a positive environment for all in their care. They have an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided.

Fr. Casey's GAA Club recognises the key role of leaders, coaches, selectors and team managers.

All of the above, should have as their first priority the children's safety and enjoyment of the sport and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in the club's Code of Ethics.

Leaders must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.

Leaders/coaches working with young people in Fr. Casey's GAA will be expected to go through appropriate recruitment and/or selection procedures and agree to Garda Vetting.

The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must be actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.

Leader's behaviour to players, other officials, and opponents will have an effect on the players in your care.

Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game. All players are entitled to respect.

Physical punishment or physical force must never be used.

Insist that players respect the rules of the game. Insist on fair play and ensure players are aware that cheating or bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.

Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other coaches.

When overnight travel is involved, Parents of u 18s will be asked to sign permission forms.

Avoid working alone and ensure there is adequate supervision for all activities.

When young players are invited into adult squads (under 16 to minor level, or minor to u21, junior or senior level) written permission will be required from parent/carer.

If a player is injured in a game, the coach is obliged to confirm with the referee that the incident will be noted in his match report for insurance purposes.

Leaders should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their players' medical or related problems. Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature if you are not qualified to do so. Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information

The nature of the relationship between leader and a participant can often mean that a leader will learn confidential information about a player or player's family. This information must be regarded as confidential and except where abuse is suspected, must not be divulged to a third party without the express permission of the player/family

Leaders should avoid the use of alcohol, before coaching, during events and on trips.

Reporting Accidents or Incidents

In the event of an accident or incident the occurrence must be reported to the Executive Committee. In the event of an accident contact should be made with the parents/guardians and the emergency services/GP if required. All the facts surrounding the incident or accident should be recorded. The Chairperson, Secretary and if relevant, the Children's Officer should be notified of the accident or incident as soon as possible to ensure the relevant documentation and insurance forms are completed.

Child Welfare and Protection Procedures

Fr. Casey's GAA Club accepts that organisations, which include young people among its members, are vulnerable to the occurrence of child abuse. Below are the procedures for dealing with any welfare or protection issue that may arise. **Child welfare and the protection of young people is the concern of all adults at all times, irrespective of their role within the organisation.**

If there are grounds for concern about the safety or welfare of a young person you should react to the concern. Persons unsure about whether or not certain behaviours are abusive and therefore reportable should contact the Gardai, the local HSE or social services department where they should seek an informal consultation and receive advice. Grounds for concern include a specific indication from a child, a statement from a person who witnessed abuse or an illness, injury or behaviour consistent with abuse.

A report made by any member in the club must be passed on to the Children's Officer or Chairperson who in turn must pass the concern to the local Statutory Authorities. **It is not the responsibility of anyone working within Fr. Casey's GAA Club to take responsibility or decide whether or not child abuse is taking place. That is the job of the statutory authorities. However, there is a responsibility to protect children by assisting the appropriate agencies so that they can then make enquiries and take any necessary action to protect the young person.**

The Children's Officer

The Children's Officer will act as a resource for all members of the club with regard to children's issues. The Children's Officer will have access to the Club Executive Committee and will have as a primary aim the establishment of a child centred ethos within the club.

Children's Officers do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating child protection concerns within the club and have no counselling or therapeutic role. It is, however, possible that child protection concerns will be brought to the attention of the Children's Officer.

References

Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Irish Sports Council, 2000.

Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Dept. of Health & Children 1999

Our Duty to Care, Dept. of Health & Children 2002

Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport Cumann Lúthchleas Gael