



CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION BYELAW 5 2026

BYELAW 5: CODES OF CONDUCT

5.1 THE PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP IN SHINTY

5.1.1 Shinty is essentially a player's game. However, in order that the game is well organised, played safely and in congenial surroundings, everyone involved has a key role to play; player, referee, coach/teacher, organiser, parent, volunteer and supporter.

- a) The Camanachd Association will endeavour through our policies, procedures, actions and decision-making to ensure that no employee, volunteer or member receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, sex, gender identity, disability, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality, socioeconomic status or sexual orientation.
- b) In addition, The Camanachd Association recognises that we live in a diverse society and will endeavour to ensure that all employees, volunteers and members are given the same opportunity regardless of their socio-economic background.
- c) The Camanachd Association is committed to ensuring equitable access to shinty and fair treatment for all who wish to participate.

5.1.2 Those involved, or becoming involved, in Shinty will gain greater enjoyment, excitement and satisfaction from that involvement if they respect and apply the spirit and ethos of these CODES.

5.1.3 They apply to all levels of the game and acknowledge the core values of respect for self, others and the laws of the game. The positive input of volunteers enriches and strengthens the sport.

5.1.4 Especially when involved with children and young people these CODES can help Shinty remain the great family sporting activity that it is.

- a) Agree issues relating to Duty of Care (e.g. responsibility for travelling to and from games).
- b) Encourage parents to support all Shinty activities reminding them that they are an integral part of the school/club community.
- c) Ensure that parents understand that the "win at all costs" ethos is not acceptable in Shinty and is counterproductive to the individual development of any player.
- d) Inform everyone about specialist equipment required (e.g. helmets) and where it can be purchased.
- e) Ensure everyone is aware of what is acceptable touchline behaviour.
- f) Gain agreement and permission for all matters involving children.
- g) Ensure that parents have realistic aspirations for their child and are aware of his/her strengths and weaknesses.

5.2 CODE FOR COACHES

- 5.2.1 Coaches should develop and maintain a positive involvement with the Camanachd Association Coach Development Programme.
- 5.2.2 Make a personal commitment to keep themselves informed on sound coaching principles and, for those working with children and young people, the principles of growth and development of young people.
- 5.2.3 Coaches must be registered with the Association. This registration creates a commitment on the part of the coach to adhere to and be subject to the Association's Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures.
- 5.2.4 Remember that all players need a coach they can respect - be generous with praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
- 5.2.5 Be pragmatic with demands on the players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- 5.2.6 Remember that children and young people have other interests and demands on their time and should be encouraged to enjoy those other activities.
- 5.2.7 Teach players that the laws of the sport are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
- 5.2.8 Ensure that all players participate - average and below average participants need and deserve fair time and attention. Some players play for fun.
- 5.2.9 Promote respect for opponents, match officials, opposing coaches and spectators.
- 5.2.10 Seek and follow medical advice as to when an injured player is ready to participate again.
- 5.2.11 Never criticise match officials during or after the match in front of players or spectators - always thank officials and if they have made any decisions, which require clarification, discuss that privately with them afterwards.
- 5.2.12 Encourage young people to develop an ethos of fair play.
Insist on fair and disciplined play - do not tolerate foul play, cheating, violence or bad language. They are disruptive to the game.

5.3 CODE FOR PLAYERS

- 5.3.1 Be positive; always try to make the game better for yourself and your team.
- 5.3.2 Abide by the laws of the game. Respecting decisions of match officials. The abuse of match officials is unacceptable.
- 5.3.3 Control your temper - use of foul language brings the game into disrepute.
- 5.3.4 Be a good sport - respect all good performance, whether by your team or by the opposition.
- 5.3.5 The aim of playing is to have fun, improve your skills and do your best. At the end of play, thank your opponents and the match officials for their involvement.
- 5.3.6 Win with humility - Lose with dignity.

5.4 CODE FOR PARENTS

- 5.4.1 Do not force an unwilling youngster to participate.
- 5.4.2 Never ridicule or shout at children for making a mistake or losing.
- 5.4.3 Encourage all children to play by the laws of the game.
- 5.4.4 Teach young people that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each contest is accepted without undue disappointment.
- 5.4.5 Turn defeat into victory by helping young people to develop a positive work ethic for self and team improvement.
- 5.4.6 Remember that young people learn from good examples.
- 5.4.7 Respect the role of match officials, before, during and after the game.
- 5.4.8 Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all levels of the game.
- 5.4.9 Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your children.
- 5.4.10 Be aware of the Camanachd Association Child Protection Policy.

5.5 CODE FOR SPECTATORS

- 5.5.1 Help the players to enjoy themselves, by lending positive support.
- 5.5.2 The abuse of players, coaches or officials is unacceptable. Be positive and support our team.
- 5.5.3 Acknowledge and respect good performance by both teams.
- 5.5.4 Spectators should not enter the playing enclosure. The running of the game is the remit of the match officials.
- 5.5.5 Remember that the players are playing for FUN. The game they play belongs to them. They are not professionals or international gladiators.

5.6 CODE FOR REFEREES

- 5.6.1 Make a personal commitment to keep abreast of refereeing principles.
- 5.6.2 Apply the rules in a manner that discourages violent play and promotes sportsmanship and fair play.
- 5.6.3 Be fully aware of the context of the game you are refereeing, e.g. age group.
- 5.6.4 Ensure that the spirit of the game is not lost. Your control of the game is a significant factor influencing whether the participants and the spectators enjoy their day out.
- 5.6.5 Remember that the players are there for FUN. You can make a positive contribution to their enjoyment.
- 5.6.6 Help clubs ensure that these CODES are being applied.
- 5.6.7 When refereeing young players, constructive coaching can be as useful as good refereeing.

5.7 DUTY OF CARE

- 5.7.1 The working relationship is between the sports officials who provide the opportunity to play and the players, both young and old, who take up that opportunity and participate. This relationship is one of mutual responsibility across the agencies involved.
- 5.7.2 Adults must appreciate the effect that their behaviour has on the actions and reactions of young people. The more exciting and passionate the circumstance, the more important is the example set by the Adults.

5.7.3 The Club:

5.7.4 The Club must take all reasonable measures to ensure that all adults are suitable for the tasks they perform in the provision of Shinty for young people. See: Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

5.7.5 The Participants:

- a) Everyone involved should be aware of these CODES and work to make them effective.
- b) Outwith the playing of the game adults should be aware of the safety and wellbeing of the young people in their charge, and should set an appropriate example.
- c) All players should recognise the responsibility they carry for their own wellbeing, and that of other participants, before, during and after the Game.

5.7.6 During the game:

- a) The control of what happens on the field of play is the sole responsibility of the match officials and the players involved.
- b) People on the touchline should not interfere with the playing of the game or enter the playing field unless asked to do so by the referee, e.g. to attend an injured player.

5.7.7 Exceptional Circumstances:

- a) Should circumstances arise where the Laws of the Game are flaunted to the extent that control of the situation has moved beyond the match officials and the players, the adults in charge can assume that the game has ceased and a common law situation has arisen. In such circumstances the adults are advised not to become involved in the situation and to remove the players from the scene to a place of safety.
- b) Such a situation should never arise if the ethos of these CODES is adhered to.

5.8 Sporting Integrity

A Player, Committee Member, Coach, Club Official or Match Official is obliged to:

- 5.8.1 Not place or attempt to place a bet on a match or competition in which he/she or his/her club participates in.
- 5.8.2 Not solicit or facilitate, or attempt to solicit or facilitate, another person to bet on a match or other event or competition in which he/she or his/her club participates in.

- 5.8.3 Not offer, or attempt to offer, a bribe in order to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which he/she or his/her club participates in.
- 5.8.4 Not receive, or seek or attempt to receive, or seek a bribe in order to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which he/she or his/her club participates in.
- 5.8.5 Report any approach or other activity which contravenes, or which may contravene, the sport's rules on betting, co-operate with any investigation and/or request for information including the provision of documentation (e.g. telephone/betting records to officials engaged in the investigation of suspected integrity issues in the sport in relation to betting).
- 5.8.6 Perform to the best of his/her ability in any match or other event in which he/she participates in.

