



Athy GFC A.S.A.P. Policy, 2010



Athy GFC ASAP Policy

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael are committed as part of their overall philosophy to '*discourage the misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco on the basis that they are incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity*'

Athy GFC Club believe that we need to create a safe and healthy club environment where members can develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to cope with drug and alcohol related issues. All club members, officials, coaches and volunteers as part of this club shall follow the law when it comes to illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco and shall display leadership and good example, particularly when dealing with underage members.

Definition of Drugs:

A drug is a substance taken by people to change how they think, feel or behave. For the purpose of this policy the term "drug" shall include all mood altering substances, both legal and illegal including substances such as:

- **Alcohol**
- **Tobacco**
- **Prescribed drugs such as antibiotics, inhalers, painkillers etc.**
- **Performance enhancing drugs as outlined by the World Anti-Doping Agency.**
- **Volatile substances such as aerosols, glues, petrol, cigarette lighter fuels etc.**
- **Products and substances sold online and in "headshops" that cause intoxication.**
- **"Over the counter" medicines such as paracetamol, anti-histamines, cough medicines etc.**
- **Controlled drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, magic mushrooms, cocaine, etc.**

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all club members are kept safe from drug-related harm when involved in club activities.

Our objectives are...

- **To develop a consistent approach to drug-related issues.**
- **To develop ways to address drug-related issues in the club.**
- **To establish clear procedures for managing drug-related incidents.**

List of Actions (these are recommended and others can be inserted as required)

The Chairperson and Executive of the club shall adopt and discharge actions from following list as appropriate to the resources of the Club.

Athy GFC Club shall take the following actions...

- **Medal ceremonies shall not be held in pubs.**
- **Cigarettes shall not be sold in the clubhouse.**
- **Alcohol advertisements shall be phased out on club jerseys.**
- **The cup shall not be filled with alcohol during juvenile celebrations.**
- **Coaches and Club Officials shall not smoke or drink alcohol while representing their club at matches or training sessions.**
- **Club members, officials, coaches and volunteers shall not present themselves at club activities while under the influence of any drug.**
- **Under 18's shall not be brought to pubs on the way to or from matches, outings or training sessions.**
- **Alcohol shall not be served at functions for players under 18 years of age in the Clubhouse, lounge or bar area.**

All persons associated with our club can help prevent drug-related harm from occurring during club activities.

The following roles are recommended:

Club Members

- Will be aware of the details of and adhere to Athy GFC Club Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Parents and Guardians

- Support the club in the development and implementation of this policy, including procedures for handling incidents of suspected drug misuse.

Coaches

- Will be aware of the possibility of drug misuse among players and work with the A.S.A.P. Club Officer, Club Chairman and Executives with the aim of preventing harm.

A.S.A.P. Club Officer

- The A.S.A.P. Club Officer is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of this policy in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive.
- The A.S.A.P. Club Officer shall have good knowledge of the local drug, alcohol and health promotion services in order to assist the club in organising prevention, education and response activities as such needs arise.
- The A.S.A.P. Club Officer is **TJ Clare** Phone no: **087 1223274** Email **tj-clare-28@hotmail.com**

Club Chairperson (or Nominee)

All relevant information, paraphernalia or suspected substances found or received, shall be forwarded to the Club Chairperson who shall consult with the necessary parties before taking relevant action based upon this policy. In the event of the Chairperson not being available to discharge these duties, the responsibility will then automatically fall to the Vice Chairperson or Secretary or other nominated person.

Education programme about drugs and alcohol

Athy GFC Club shall arrange for a drug education programme for members, players, parents etc as appropriate. This drug education programme may include the promotion of club policy, provision of literature, workshops or information sessions provided by personnel from local drug, alcohol or health promotion services.

- The Club A.S.A.P. Officer, in conjunction with the Club Chairperson, shall make arrangements with local drug, alcohol or health promotion services to provide drug education **annually** for **adults** associated with the club.
- The Club A.S.A.P. Officer, in conjunction with the Club Chairperson, shall make arrangements with local drug, alcohol or health promotion services to provide **age appropriate** drug education **annually** for **young people** associated with the club.

Protocol for dealing with drug misuse

Athy GFC Club shall endeavour to respond to all drug-related incidents in a firm but fair manner, with due respect for the safety and welfare of individuals involved, other members of the club and the wider community and shall also fulfil any legal obligations that might apply.

Outline of Restrictions

The misuse or supply of drugs is viewed as unacceptable by Athy GFC Club and members or officials are prohibited from presenting themselves for club duties while under the influence of a drug. Breaches of these restrictions are punishable by warnings, suspensions and expulsions as deemed appropriate.

Reporting of Incidents

Alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be referred to the Club Chairperson who is legally obliged to report the incident to An Garda Síochána.

Recording of Information

Information regarding alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be recorded in writing. The recording of factual information is preferable and all opinions shall be stated as such. Responses to cases shall also be recorded in this way. Only in confirmed cases shall names of individuals be recorded.

Confidentiality

While it is not possible to guarantee, every effort shall be made to respect confidentiality.

Involving Parents/Guardians

Incidents involving any person under 18 years of age will require their parents/guardians to be informed. Parents/guardians shall be invited to discuss what has happened and shall be informed of any course of action to be taken by the club. The Club Chairperson shall nominate a person to inform parents/guardians in each case.

Garda Síochána/PSNI Involvement

Incidents that involve the illegal supply of drugs shall require Garda Síochána/PSNI involvement. In all other drug-related incidents, each case shall be considered on an individual basis. However An Garda Síochána must still be notified of the incident.

Search

The Club Chairperson retains the right to direct a search of any part of club property if there is reasonable cause to believe a substance in breach of this policy is contained therein. Two officials of the club shall conduct the search. Club Officials are not allowed to search an individual or their personal property. Where there is reasonable cause to believe a person has in their possession a substance in breach of this policy, they shall be asked to volunteer the substance. If they refuse, the Garda Síochána/PSNI may be called upon to conduct a search.

Disposing of suspected illegal substances

If a suspected illegal substance is found on club property it shall be brought to the attention of the Club Chairperson. The substance shall be stored securely and the Club Chairperson will notify An Garda Síochána, who will collect and dispose of the substance. The handing over of the substance of the illegal substance must be witnessed by at least two officials.

Availability, use and storage of solvents and gases

Many solvent based products have the potential to be abused (e.g. deodorants, paints, thinners, cleaning fluids etc). All solvent based materials and gases shall be stored securely and safely away from public access.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is in force at all times and during all activities conducted under the aegis of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. This policy shall be evaluated annually and after every drug-related incident. This policy shall come into effect on 30/05/2010 and shall be reviewed annually thereafter by the Club A.S.A.P. Officer in conjunction with the Club Chairperson and Executive.

All policies must be approved by the County Committee and the County Officer, with copies of the policies going to the A.S.A.P. National Office and the A.S.A.P. County Officer.

Signed Mark Dalton Club Chairperson

Date _______________

Signed TJ Clare A.S.A.P. Club Officer

Date _______________

○ Contact List:

- A.S.A.P. Officer:
- Junior Liaison Officer for Athy Area (An Garda Síochána): Kevin Fahey, Baltinglass
- Inspector Aidan Minnock, Athy: 059 8631669
- Sergeant Jim Bergin, Athy: 059 8631669