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We would like to thank our families, players, coaches, and other volunteers who helped make the official start of our tournament season a success at the first Philadelphia League Day this past Sunday, May 18th in Malvern. We had beautiful weather and a great day of Gaelic Football, Hurling, and Camogie for ages U6 up to U16. We hope our new families and players had the opportunity to see the fun and excitement of our sports in a game setting. Our season will continue through June and into July, including our regional Liberty Bell Championship tournament June 28th and June 29th and the national Continental Youth Championship (CYC) tournament in Chicago, IL, July 24th – 27th.

As our season gets underway, **we wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our club's Code of Conduct**, which applies to coaches, players, and parents/caregivers, and which all were required to acknowledge during the player registration process. This Code of Conduct is attached to this email for your reference. We as a club and our ultimate governing body, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), subscribe to the core principles of **Give Respect - Get Respect**. Accordingly, in addition to the pledges and acknowledgments listed in our Code of Conduct and the GAA's Code of Behaviour, please see below regarding certain Code of Conduct clarifications in response to some incidents that occurred at one of our recent practices and the tournament this weekend.

All our club's coaches and team managers are volunteers, who generously donate their time to make the Delco Gaels a possibility. Many are also parents with their own children who play in our club and who participate in other sports, and as a result, understand firsthand the challenges and dynamics of youth sports. Any verbal abuse of, or aggressive behavior towards, a coach or team manager by a parent, caregiver, or player will not be tolerated. If a parent/caregiver has a concern they would like to raise with a coach, then such concern should be raised outside of the scheduled practice or game time and should be communicated in writing in a respectful manner and tone. We expect our coaches/managers to do the same. **We follow the 24-hour rule**, which involves waiting at least 24 hours before addressing a concern. Concerns need to be submitted in writing through the club secretary (delcogaels.secretary@gmail.com) and will be addressed only after 24 hours has passed since the initial incident. Discussions in the heat of the moment when emotions are the highest rarely yield a favorable outcome.



If any parent, caregiver, or player has a concern about which they are not comfortable raising with a coach, please contact us (Chairperson or Vice Chairperson), or one of our club's other board members (who will bring the matter to our attention) so we can discretely address the situation.

For the full duration of all practices and games, **non-coaching parents and other spectators must stand apart from the team and players**, preferably if space permits, on the opposite side of the field and, under no circumstances should they come onto the field unless they have been given permission by a coach or referee. This separation is necessary for us to remain in compliance with GAA rules relating to player safety and clearances required for those working with children as well as insurance coverages that must be provided to rent fields and facilities. Understandably, there will be occasional situations when a parent or caregiver may need to deliver water, mouthguard, equipment, etc. to a player on the sideline; however, once the delivery is complete, the parent/caregiver should return to the other spectators. Also, there will be occasions when a parent or spectator will be asked to work during a game as a goal umpire or as a linesperson. Under these circumstances, the person should refrain from interfering with the game or coaching their child on the field and should unbiasedly fulfill their umpire and linesperson duties.

Any failure to abide by the attached Code of Conduct, the GAA Code of Behaviour, or the clarifications listed above may result in, at the discretion of the club's board, the person or persons in violation being suspended or barred from attending practices, games, tournaments, and other club sponsored events.

We are excited for the remainder of the season and look forward to seeing all of you at the pitch!

Le meas,

Jim McCormick	Lorna Corr
Chairperson	Vice Chairperson