



Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed, Thurles



SPORTS POLICY

Policy Area	Schools
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Mission Statement

School Mission statement: At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed we aspire to develop a caring and inclusive learning community that encourages the potential of each person. The mission is realised through our core values of Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect.

Rath as Saothar – Success through effort.

Rationale

Sport has a major role to play in school and society. Participation in school sport makes a major contribution to the students' education and to their physical, social and emotional development. Teachers/Coaches must make use of the opportunities that sport and sporting activities provide in order to help the students to grow and develop as persons.

Our aim is to create opportunities for students to participate in a wide variety of sports.

Principles

Our school sporting environment provides for:

- Enjoyment of playing.
- Proficient teaching and development of skills.
- A balanced attitude towards competition where winning and losing must be handled in a spirit of true sportsmanship.
- Harmonious interaction between teacher/coach and student and between fellow students.
- Exposure of students to a variety of sports so that a "carry over" to later life may be possible.

Spirit

On and off the field there should always be a good spirit. Team spirit encourages students to participate not only for themselves but also for the team.

Discipline

- Students are expected to accept the decisions of match officials.
- Students are expected to obey the rules and take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Students should not use inappropriate language or behave in an unsporting manner.
- Students are expected to respect all coaches, mentors, officials and opponents.
- The captain of the team will always model good behaviour.

- The correct attire must be worn for participation in all sporting activities. For example, the school PE uniform must be worn to all matches.

General

- Coaches/educators are at all times responsible for the students in their care.
- Coaches/educators and their players are responsible for seeing that the playing areas and environs are litter free before and after matches.
- All sporting accidents must be recorded on Accident Report Sheets.
- For away games it is school policy that all players use transport organised by the school.
- All discipline issues on the sports field will be dealt with by the referee/coaches/teachers. Serious misdemeanors must be reported to the principal and will be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour.
- It is the responsibility of coaches that all school equipment should be cared for properly and returned to its appropriate location after use.
- Once a game is booked, the organising staff member must add it to the CMCO Sports Google Calendar.
- Coaches must notify the canteen of the number of students attending the game once they have booked their game.

Players - Code of Behaviour

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Work equally for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you. Representing Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed is a privilege and must be respected as such. This privilege may be withdrawn by school authorities at any time if the student's behaviour in school dictates.
- Treat all participants in your sports as you would like to be treated and note that the school's code of behaviour applies while participating in all extra-curricular activities.
- Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their ability, cultural background or religion.
- For away games, it is school policy that all players use transport organised by the school.
- The correct attire must be worn for participation in all sporting activities.
- It is forbidden to wear any jewellery when participating in any physical activity.

External Sports Coaches

- All external Sport Coaches will work under the supervision of a designated teacher and the programme should be tailored to the experience of the coach.

- Should have a recognised qualification/experience in the activity they are to deliver, and this must be established and records of same kept.
- Must present evidence of having received Child Protection training.
- Must submit a Garda Vetting report.
- Should have appropriate experience of working with young people.
- Must provide the names and contact details of two-character referees.
- Where volunteers are involved in what would be considered higher-risk activities (maybe kayaking, horse riding etc.) it is important that the ETB does a more detailed risk assessment of what is happening and, again, this will be largely based around the experience and competence of the individual providing the service.

Please also see the Visiting Speakers and Guests policy.

The Board of Management adopted this policy at a meeting in March 2026 and the policy is available on the school website.

Appendix 1

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed team sports conditions.

It is an honour and privilege for any student to represent Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed in a team sport. However, this privilege comes with certain conditions attached and the conditions must be adhered to by all students involved. In the event they are not, the privilege of representing your school will be withdrawn.

1. Students going to matches should only leave class at the break of class immediately before they travel to matches. Lunches should be brought in if leaving early on the day.
2. Full uniform must be worn both to and from matches. The full code of behaviour applies to students when they represent the school. Polite and courteous behaviour is expected of all students, especially outside of school grounds, on the bus, in shops and in “away venues”. Aggressive behaviour and inappropriate language will not be tolerated. Students are ambassadors for the school and are expected to behave as such.
3. Students returning from matches must go immediately to class on return even if there are only a few minutes remaining. Students playing in venues close to their homes must return to the school grounds after matches with the rest of the team unless they have written parental/guardian consent.
4. Students must get homework that they missed by having the contact number of someone in their class. They must have it ready for the next day (absence from class due to ECA is not an excuse for not having homework done)
5. All students representing the school must have paid their insurance.
6. Students travelling to fixtures by bus will be charged to offset against the cost of the bus.
7. Commitment to training is essential for inclusion on team panels travelling to matches.
8. It will be at the discretion of the year head/principal if students “on report” can represent the school at a match.