



Cláirseacha Bhaile Cholmáin CLG

BALLYHOLLAND HARPS GAC

Medical Policy for Juvenile Football Players

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This document explains our processes for the identification and recuperation of injuries sustained to juvenile footballers while representing or training with the Club.

Mentors and parents are required to follow these processes exactly.

If an Injury is Clearly Sustained During a Match or Training Sessions

For **"Mentor"** read the lead mentor at an age grade only.

For **"Parent"**, to minimise the potential for mixed messages, we would request that one parent/guardian only assumes responsibility for communications with the club.

1. Mentor: Must request that the referee adds injury details to his match report.
2. Mentor: Should telephone Parent to meet at the club (or if necessary, hospital), to explain nature and severity of injury.
3. Mentor: Should follow-up with a telephone call to Parent the next day.
4. Mentor: After the follow-up call, should advise the Juvenile Football Secretary on the nature of the injury.
5. Juvenile Secretary: Regardless of severity, this injury must be logged.

If the injury is severe enough to require physio treatment / medical treatment / medical operation, the following steps are applied.

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6. Parent: The Parent must request further support directly through the lead Mentor.
7. Mentor: Can then immediately refer the Player to the appointed Club Physio (only).
8. Physio: Will inform the Mentor (only), if the extent of medical treatment is confined to Physio sessions only.
9. Physio: Will contact the Mentor, then the Juvenile Secretary, should scans or consultations be required.
10. Juvenile Secretary: Must authorise any private scans / consultations. If this authorisation is not received, the club will not be liable for payments.
11. Juvenile Secretary: If there is a strong likelihood that a medical operation will be required, must inform the Executive Secretary immediately.
12. Physio: On Juvenile Secretary approval, will book the appointment and act as club liaison.

If the Scan / Consultation delivers bad news, the following steps are applied:

13. Physio: Advises the Executive Committee of consultant recommendations.
14. Executive Secretary: Must authorise any consultant recommendations (i.e. an operation). If this authorisation is not received, the Physio will not proceed, and the club will not be liable for payments.
15. Physio: Will oversee next steps of the process, and help book the operation and associated treatment, acting as club liaison.

Post operation

16. Physio: Will monitor the Player's progress and manage their recuperation programme, if applicable.
17. Physio: Will have final say in when a Player is fit to return to competitive training and/or matches.

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If an Injury is Revealed at a Later Stage

- A “later stage” is up to 14 days subsequent to the assumed date of injury. Once 14 days have passed, it will be accepted that injury occurred through other physical activity, and the club no longer has duty of care.
- if an injury is discovered subsequent to a match / training, the process begins at step 6.
- At step 10, the Juvenile Secretary can request a meeting with Parent(s), Physio and Mentor to investigate the injury, and ensure that it occurred when under the duty of care of Ballyholland Harps GAC. Should this meeting be requested, treatment will be postponed until such meeting has concluded.

General Notes

- Players (or Parents) cannot book an initial appointment directly with the Club Physio. This must be organised through the lead Mentor.
- The Club Physio can devise a schedule of up to 4 appointments, without requiring approval from the Executive Committee. If a longer course of rehabilitation is required, the Club Physio must engage the Executive Secretary for approval.
- Players aged 16 or younger cannot attend appointments with the Club Physio unless accompanied by a Parent/Guardian. No exceptions.
- The Club will not be liable for any invoices for third-party physios, consultants, scans or operations, unless approved by the Juvenile Secretary (consultants, scans) or Executive Secretary (external physios, consultants, scans, operations), prior to the date of invoice.
- All playing members of Ballyholland Harps GAC must understand that if an injury has not been registered with the GAA Central Council with 60 days, then the GAA is not liable in any way, shape or form. This is a GAA-wide policy, and will be fully adhered to by the Club.
- For Players who undergo a scan, consultation or operation: any player who returns to competitive action – for their club, school, county, or in any other contact sport - before Club Physio approval, will no longer be covered by the Club for any form of

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medical treatment (including physio sessions) for 3 full years from the date they returned. For clarification, competitive action includes full-contact training.