

# CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice is intended to help create and maintain high standards in chaplaincy practice. It sets out the role, responsibilities and expectations of sports chaplains. The club/organisation and chaplain are also referred to the 'Introduction to Sports Chaplaincy' document which gives more detail on the role and expectations Sports Chaplaincy Ireland has for chaplains. Chaplaincy work involves a 3-way relationship between the chaplain, the club/organisation and Sports Chaplaincy Ireland and best practice is therefore served by an agreement between all parties as to the best way of operating. It is also suggested that such work is regularly evaluated by all parties in order to maintain the highest standards.

**Within that relationship there are expectations of all parties involved:-**

## The CHAPLAIN is expected to:

- 1 Be acceptable to the club/organisation and Sports Chaplaincy Ireland and have the support of their church.
- 2 Be spiritually alive and possess recognised pastoral gifts in order to be able to deliver excellence in chaplaincy.
- 3 Give a regular weekly commitment.
- 4 Undertake recognised Safeguarding training and an enhanced police check in line with Garda Vetting / Access NI as organised by and in line with the policies and procedures of the club, league or organisation being served.
- 5 Attend Sports Chaplaincy Ireland's "Induction to Sports Chaplaincy" and then give time to ongoing training, self-development and networking via regional and annual meetings/conferences.
- 6 Have an understanding of their responsibility to develop harmonious relationships with other chaplains, the local church, the club/organisation and its community.
- 7 Recognise that they hold a Position of Trust because of their substantial and regular direct contact with those seeking support at times when they may be additionally vulnerable due to factors such as abuse, stress, isolation, injury, illness, transitions and bereavement. This will include taking action to support, safeguard and protect those who share concerns with them.
- 8 Work within the boundaries agreed with the club/organisation.
- 9 Be available to all offering emotional, pastoral and spiritual support on a one-to one basis in a sensitive, non-judgemental way to players and their family members of all ages, staff, volunteers and other participants or fans linked to their club/organisation.
- 10 Maintain a professional approach to the task and confidentiality, within permitted legal boundaries.
- 11 Be available to meet individuals pastorally outside the club/organisation setting.
- 12 Inform Sports Chaplaincy Ireland of any personal changes that may affect their chaplaincy and of any need to discontinue their chaplaincy responsibilities including the discussion of hand-over possibilities.
- 13 Liaise sensitively, and in advance, with the club/organisation over the reimbursement of any costs incurred in the furtherance of pastoral work within the club/organisation (e.g. support for training conferences, travel expenses etc).

Adopted with permission from



Sports Chaplaincy UK & Sports Chaplaincy Ireland are members of the Global Sports Chaplaincy family



Sports Chaplaincy UK is supported by:





## The CLUB is expected to:

- 1 Agree to mutually acceptable expressions of chaplaincy involvement and to define broad expectations and boundaries.
- 2 Identify a person who will act as a prime contact, and who has a supportive and evaluative role with reference to the chaplain (see Appendix).
- 3 Offer advice and help in providing reasonable accessibility and resources necessary for the work (e.g. security pass, introductions to staff, ongoing training etc, see Appendix).
- 4 Be compliant with Children First and National Vetting Bureau legislation / Access NI requirements, ensure appropriate vetting of volunteers/staff takes place and safeguarding training is undertaken.
- 5 Inform Sports Chaplaincy Ireland in the exceptional circumstances of concerns or problems arising between themselves and the chaplain, or if for any reason the chaplain has to move on.
- 6 Liaise in advance with the chaplain over the issue of reimbursement of possible exceptional expenses incurred in pastoral ministry within the club/organisation to the mutual satisfaction of each party.
- 7 Make known the broad role and availability of the chaplain to staff, players and associates at the club/organisation.

## SPORTS CHAPLAINCY IRELAND is expected to:

- 1 Provide a Code of Practice for the club/organisation and chaplain as a basis for their working together.
- 2 Offer ongoing training, support and nurturing of high quality chaplaincy provision.
- 3 Provide opportunities for networking with other chaplains, regionally and nationally.
- 4 Liaise with the appropriate person at the club/organisation in the exceptional circumstances of difficulties arising between themselves and their chaplain.
- 5 Where appropriate liaise with the club over the cost of providing chaplaincy support, e.g. chaplain's membership fees, training costs, etc.
- 6 Offer continuity when the chaplain moves on.
- 7 Advocate both an annual evaluation of the chaplain's work and the provision of appropriate feedback to the chaplain by the club/organisation.

*(Chaplains may become members of Sports Chaplaincy Ireland but are not employed or deployed by Sports Chaplaincy Ireland, as sports chaplains are the volunteers of the club/organisation they serve).*

## Agreement to abide by the code of practice:-

<b>THE CHAPLAIN</b>	<b>FOR AND ON BEHALF OF SPORTS CHAPLAINCY IRELAND</b>	<b>FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB/ORGANISATION</b>
Name: .....	Name: .....	Club/Organisation Name: .....
Signature: .....	Position: .....	Position: .....
Date: .....	Signature: .....	Signature: .....
	Date: .....	Date: .....