



CODES OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES & VOLUNTEERS

All coaches and volunteers are encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect children/young people in their care, and themselves, from false allegations. The following are commonsense examples of how to create a positive culture and environment within your club.

As a coach/volunteer within this club I agree to the following charter:

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person within the club and treat them equally
- I will develop an appropriate working relationship with children/young people based on mutual trust and respect. I will not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- As a coach, I will strive to hold an up-to-date and nationally recognised coaching qualification and hold appropriate insurance cover
- I will always promote the positive aspects of football (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances
- I will be an excellent role model. This includes not smoking, drinking alcohol, using foul, abusive, sectarian, racial or discriminatory language or taking drugs in the company of children/young people.
- I will always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment with no secrets)
- I will always put the welfare of each child/young person before winning or achieving goals
- I will maintain a safe and appropriate distance with the children/young people (e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child/young person)
- I will make football enjoyable and promote fair play
- I will ensure that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it is provided openly and according to agreed guidelines. If physical support is needed, I will talk aloud to the child/young person explaining what I am doing and why as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when a child/young person is constantly moving. I agree that children/young people should always be consulted before they are touched and their agreement gained. Parental/guardian views about manual support will always be carefully considered.
- I will involve parents/guardians wherever possible (e.g. for the responsibility of their children in the changing room) provided they have been successfully vetted, are of the appropriate gender and work in pairs
- I will give enthusiastic and constructive feedback, encouraging achievements rather than using negative criticism
- I will recognize the developmental needs and capacity of children/young people, including those with a disability, avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will

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- I will keep a written record or inform the Head Coach of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given
- Bullying is not acceptable behaviour towards anyone, whether coach/volunteer, parent/guardian or child/young person. Anyone found to be bullying others will be dealt with seriously, both in relation to the behaviour exhibited and the reasons for the behaviour.
- I will avoid spending any time alone with children/young people, away from others.

The following will never be sanctioned. I will never:

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- share a changing room, bath or shower with a child/young person
- allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- allow children/young people to use foul, abusive, sectarian, discriminatory or racial language unchallenged
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child/young person, even in fun
- reduce a child/young person to tears as a form of control
- allow allegations made by a child/young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- undertake personal care for children/young person
- invite or allow children/young people to stay with me at my home.

I understand any misdemeanours or breach of this code will be dealt with immediately and reported verbally and in writing to the Child Welfare Officer/designated person. Persistent breach of the code will result in dismissal from the club.

Dismissals can be appealed by the coach/volunteer, with final decisions made by the NIBFA.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

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