

Codes of Conduct for Coaches/Volunteers

Coaches and volunteers involved in young people's sport have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and help build an individual's confidence.

Coaches/volunteers are expected to:

- Ensure the safety of all children by careful supervision, proper pre- planning of coaching sessions, using safe methods at all times.
- Check that a signed Parental consent form has been received for each u-18 participant
- Maintain an attendance record at all sessions and monitor participants attendance patterns. Report any concerns to club designated person
- Treat all young people equally and ensure they feel valued. Have no favourites.
- Encourage all children not to discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social classes or lack of ability.
- Not allow any rough or dangerous play, bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour.
- Appreciate the efforts of all young people and not over-train the young people.
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of the club at all times.
- Not let any allegations of abuse of any kind to go unchallenged or unrecorded if appropriate. Incidents and accidents to be recorded in the club incident/accident book. Parents will be informed.
- Report accidents or incidents of alleged abuse to the designated person.
- Adhere to guidelines on physical contact
- Administer minor first aid in the presence of others and where required refer more serious incidents to the club "first aider"
- Have access to telephone for immediate contact to emergency services if required.
- Foster team work to ensure the safety of youth members in their care
- Ensure the rights and responsibilities of youth members are enforced
- Report suspected abuse to the appropriate designated officer
- Not abuse members physically, emotionally or sexually

- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information
- Respect and listen to the opinions of young people.
- Take time to explain coaching techniques to ensure they are clearly understood
- Be a role model (disciplined / committed / time keeping), remember children learn by example
- Refrain from smoking and consumption of alcohol during club activities or coaching session
- Coaches and Volunteers should make themselves aware of Appendix 14 on Self Harm and Suicide Awareness

During games Coaches and Volunteers should

- Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious belief or political affiliation;
 - Not use foul, sexist or racist language;
 - Use your official position to take action against any club member or spectator who harasses, abuses or uses foul, sexist or racist language;
 - Accept the responsibilities of the role that you have to set a good example of behaviour and conduct at all times and promote ethical principles;
 - Ensure your club is aware of and follows best practice guidelines to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults;
 - Ensure that proper supervision is provided by suitably qualified coaches and officials who are capable of promoting good sporting behaviour and good technical skills;
 - Ensure all equipment and facilities meet safety standards;
 - Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques;
 - Encourage all players and coaches to abide by the rules and spirit of the game and do not manipulate the rules in order to benefit yourself personally or your club;
 - Show respect to match officials, coaches, players and others involved in the game;
 - Do not endeavour to influence the result of a game by any actions that are not strictly within the rules;
 - Remember sport is enjoyed for its own sake - play down the importance of awards;
- At all times Coaches/ Volunteers should protect themselves from false accusation by:

- Not spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- Never taking children to their home.
- Not administering First Aid involving the removing of children's clothing unless in the presence of others.
- Not being overly familiar with children this can be misinterpreted
- Do not communicate with Children via phone calls, text messaging, MSM or Facebook etc
- Communication re Club Business e.g. fixtures, training , cancellations etc should ideally be made through the parents. If this is not possible keep phone calls or texts brief and to the point.
- **Make the sport/activity FUN**

Coaches/Volunteers have a right to:

- Access ongoing training and information on all aspects of leading / managing activities for youths, particularly on child protection
- Support in the reporting of suspected abuse
- Access to professional support services
- Fair and equitable treatment by Basketball Northern Ireland
- Be protected from abuse by children / youths, other adult members and parents
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with children

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with immediately and reported verbally to the 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 taken by the club committee.

Emergency Action/First Aid

All coaches, leaders and members should be prepared with an action plan in the event of an emergency and be aware of our First Aid Procedures (Appendix 13).



This will include

- Access to First Aid equipment
- Telephone contact if the participant is a minor
- Telephone contact to the Emergency Services

Signature of Coach

Printed name of Coach

Date _____