

Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches of players should:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players.
- Understand that most learning is achieved through doing.
- Be a positive role model - think what this implies.
- Be aware of the power and trust held as a person in a position of trust, treating this position and power with the highest of responsibility.
- Ensure provision of a safe and inclusive environment for all children, their age, gender, sexuality, gender reassignment, disability or ability, religion, or ethnicity
- Maintain professional relationships with children at all times and know that any form of sexual relationship with someone under 18 is against the law and breach of their position of trust
- Keep winning and losing in perspective - encourage players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- Respect all referees (coaches) and the decisions they make, even if they appear to make a mistake, and ensure that the players recognise that they must do the same.
- Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner to all players, both during coaching sessions and matches.
- Use appropriate language at all times and challenges anyone who swears or uses unacceptable language in front of or toward children and young people
- Provide sport experiences which are matched to the players' ages and abilities, as well as their physical and behavioural development.
- Ensure all players are coached in a safe environment, with adequate first aid available.
- Avoid the overplaying of the best players by using a squad system which gives everybody a satisfactory amount of playing time.
- Never allow a player to train or play when injured.
- Ensure good supervision of players, both on and off the field.
- Use positive reinforcement for discipline and report to the Safeguarding Team anyone who is seen to intimidate, threaten or act in a way that is physically or verbally abusive and agree to challenge a child or other person who acts in this way
- Recognise that players should never be exposed to extremes of heat, cold or unacceptable risk of injury.
- Develop an awareness of nutrition as part of an overall education in lifestyle management.
- Recognise that it is illegal for players under 18 to drink alcohol and those under 16 to smoke. Coaches should actively discourage both.
- Ensure that their knowledge and coaching strategies are up to date
- To maintain a good coach to player ratio – no more than 20 children per coach