

## **Annalong FC Youth Code of Conduct for Coaches and Volunteers**

Coaches and volunteers will create a positive football environment by displaying exemplary behaviour and implementing practices that make football a safe, fun and positive experience for all children and young people who participate in football. Football is a very passionate game that can evoke different emotions and reactions and sometimes these emotions and reactions can be negative and can spill onto the pitch. Coaches and volunteers have a responsibility to ensure their conduct does not compromise the welfare of a child or young person, or bring the sport or their club into disrepute. Any behaviour which compromises this ethos may result in disciplinary action.

### **As a coach / volunteer I will:**

- show respect to everyone involved in the game (i.e. coaches, players, match officials and spectators)
- be an excellent role model and display exemplary behaviour at all times. This includes not smoking, drinking alcohol, taking drugs or using foul, racial, sectarian or discriminatory language.  
Only develop open, honest, professional and respectful relationships with children and young people
- promote the positive aspects of football and never condone rule-violations or the use of prohibited substances
- not equate success purely with results / winning, or equate losing with failure
- respect decisions made by match officials and never publicly criticise their decisions
- never enter the field of play without permission from the referee
- never use offensive, insulting, abusive or inappropriate language

omment

### **When coaching/volunteering children and young people I will:**

- always put the welfare of children and young people before winning or achieving goals
- work in an open environment and do not time alone with children and young people away from others

Only partake in one-to-one coaching with a child or young person if it is absolutely necessary, part of the overall team training session and is done with the knowledge of the club and agreement with the child/young person and parent

- make them feel safe and ensure that coaching and volunteer ratios are appropriate to the needs of the group
- make football a fun experience
- communicate in a constructive, effective and age-appropriate manner
- be positive by giving constructive feedback, praising efforts and encouraging achievements
- ensure that if any form of manual / physical support is required, it is provided openly and according to agreed club guidelines. If physical support is needed, I will talk openly to the child or young person, explaining what I am doing and why, but I understand that for coaching purposes within football there are limited reasons for physical support. I agree that children and 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

- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and young people, including those with a disability, avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing any child against their will
- carry out a risk assessment and ensure that the equipment and environment used for every club activity is safe
- keep a written record, and inform senior coach and parent of the young person, of any injury that occurs, including details of any treatment given
- never engage in bullying behaviour
- challenge any form of bullying behaviour and report it to club Welfare Officer and parent of the young person
- Do not any time alone with children or young people away from others.

**The following actions 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 or young person
- allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- allow children or young people to use foul, abusive, racial, or discriminatory language unchallenged
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child or young person – even in fun
- engage in sexual relationships with any player under 18 years of age while that unequal power relationship exists, and will notify the Club Welfare Officer of any relationships where there is a potential or actual abuse of trust
- engage in inappropriate use of social media – this includes never posting comments on social media sites that compromise the welfare of a child or young person, cause them harm, or bring the club or sport into disrepute
- reduce a child or young person to tears as a form of control
- encourage or bully a child or young person into playing while injured
- show favoritism
- allow allegations made by a child or young person to go unrecorded or not acted upon.
- undertake personal care for children or young people
- remain in the changing room while players are showering or changing. This applies to all coaches and volunteers who are working with children and young people that are the opposite gender to themselves.
- invite or allow children or young people to stay with me at my home.

The Irish FA requires adherence to all Codes of Conduct and will take appropriate action if any person is deemed to be in breach of a code as set out in this policy.

