



*Kilkerrin United*

*Code of Conduct for  
Club Volunteers*

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*Reviewed: 16/03/2021 – Next Review: 16/03/2022*  
*Revised By: Kilkerrin United Committee*  
*Rev 01*

**Football and Young people**

Kilkerrin United is indebted to the countless number of volunteers who give up their time in providing football opportunities for children and young people. Coaches, parents and administrators all have an important role to play in promoting good practice in children's sport. They should have as their first priority, children's safety and enjoyment of the sport.

Coaches need to be aware of why children want to play soccer. They want to learn new skills, make new friends, be part of a group, to win and be successful, experience challenges, excitement and action. While winning is important, it must be remembered that winning at all costs does not meet the needs of players. Results are not necessarily a good indicator of coaching effectiveness or ability, the improvement level of players and their level of enjoyment is.

***Coaches Obligations:***

Before engaging with children in any capacity, coaches must ensure that they, and any individuals working as part of their coaching/supervising team, have fulfilled the statutory obligations and meet the club requirements. For each individual engaging with children:

- A valid Garda Vetting Confirmation Letter must be received by and acknowledged by the club committee
- A valid Safeguarding 1 Certificate must be received by and acknowledged by the club committee
- A completed "Kilkerrin United Volunteer Registration Form" must be received and acknowledged by the club committee

***In promoting good practice and creating a child/player centred approach coaches should:***

- Act as a good role model
- Encourage and be positive during sessions so that players leave with a sense of enjoyment
- Set challenging, realistic but achievable goals
- Plan and prepare each session appropriately and ensure proper levels of supervision
- Ensure that all activities are inclusive and allow all players to participate in an enjoyable way
- Put the welfare and enjoyment of players first and strike a balance between this and winning
- Enforce the principles of fair play treating each player equally, with dignity and respect and ensure all players play within the rules
- Be aware of the developmental stages and needs of players
- Avoid over training and over emphasis on competition
- Involve parents/guardians and other club members in what we do
- Be qualified and up to date with the latest coaching knowledge and skills

### **Best Practice**

Coaches are given a position of trust by parents/guardian and players, and should show the highest standards of behaviour whilst in the company of underage players. It is important that coaches follow an agreed code of conduct and that parents/guardians and club officials are satisfied that the coaches are suitable for job.

- Coaches/Volunteers should never:
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward
- Be alone in a room with a young person
- Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind or make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child
- Use any form of corporal punishment or physical force on a young person
- Take part in any kind of physical fitness testing without an adult present
- Undertake any form of therapy in the training of children

### **Safety**

Coaches have a responsibility to ensure the safety of all players possible within the limits of their control. Therefore, coaches should seek to create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to play and train.

In this respect:

- Regular safety checks should be carried out in relation to premises, training facilities and equipment. Any problems should be brought to the attention of the Committee.
- Appropriate safety rules should be adopted and implemented and protective equipment should be used in any contact training session.
- Parents/guardians should be informed of the starting and finishing times of training sessions and matches.
- A first aid kit should be available at all training sessions /matches and injuries should be recorded, with a note of action taken in relation to each one.
- Parents/Guardians should be notified of injuries/illness which their children incur while participating in any football activity
- Never play injured players.
- Ensure equal playing time in games for all underage players as per the FAI Player Development Plan.
- Ensure that the FAI Goalpost safety policy is strictly adhered to at all times