

Malahide Basketball Club



Club Code of Conduct

- Junior Members**
- Parents/Guardians**
- Coaches**

Updated for 2023 / 2024 Season

Code of Conduct for Junior Members

Junior members (u18) are expected to:

- Be loyal and give their friends a second chance.
- Be friendly and particularly welcoming to new members.
- Be supportive and committed to other team members, offer comfort when required.
- Not get involved in inappropriate peer pressure and push others into something they do not want to do.
- Keep within the defined boundary of the playing/coaching area.
- Behave and listen to all instructions from the coach. Play within the rules and respect the officials and their decisions
- Take care of equipment owned by the club and help tidy up gym after training sessions if required.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Refrain from the use of bad language or racial/sectarian references. This includes bullying and using technologies like social media.
- Refrain from bullying or persistent use of rough and dangerous play.
- Keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Must wear suitable kit for training and match sessions, as agreed with the coach/team manager.
- Members must pay any fees for training or events promptly or seek advice privately if necessary.
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke or vape on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions.

- Show respect to other youth members/leaders and show team spirit.
- Keep themselves safe.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations for youth members.
- Play fairly and be trustworthy.
- Respect officials and accept decisions.
- Show appropriate loyalty and be gracious in defeat.
- Challenge or report the bullying of your peers.
- Respect opponents.
- Not cheat or be violent/aggressive.
- Not use violence as a way to communicate frustration or unhappiness.
- Endeavour to make your team & club a positive experience for all members. Make your club a fun place to be.

Be aware they represent their family, club and community when playing basketball for the club and to be mindful of this in terms of behaviour & respect for people & property particularly when playing at away venues or on team trips.

Junior Members have the right to:

- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be listened to.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Privacy.
- Enjoy basketball in a safe & supportive environment.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.
- Be protected from abuse by other member(s) or outside sources.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed.
- Have confidential non-judgemental access to help/support.

Code of Conduct – Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are expected to:

- Ensure their child has read and understood the club Code of Conduct as it pertains to them.
- Positively reinforce their child's involvement in basketball, show an interest in their progress and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Do not place their young person under pressure or push them into activities they do not want to do.
- Ensure they are punctual for training sessions and collected on time. If they are making their own way to the gym/home after the session on a regular basis please inform the coach/manager. Deliver and collect the child punctually to and from coaching sessions/matches.
- Ensure their child is properly prepared for and adequately attired to play basketball and encourage self-preparation: i.e. match/training gear on, footwear, basketball, fluids, inhaler (if needed) sun cream etc.
- Detail any health concerns pertaining to the child when registering for the year, in particular breathing or chest conditions. Any changes in the state of the child's health post registration or following participation in another sport prior to attendance at basketball session/game should be reported to the coach/team manager in confidence.
- To inform the coach prior to departure from the session if child is to be collected early.
- Encourage their child to play by the rules and teach them that they can only do their best.
- Help your child to recognize the value of good performance and effort and not just good results.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all.
- Behave responsibly when supporting courtside; do not embarrass your child.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.

- Show appreciation and support the coach.
- Be realistic and supportive.
- Ensure their child's hygiene and nutritional needs are met.
- Accept the match official's judgement and listen to any warnings given by them in order to avoid penalty given against the team due to negative supporter behaviour.
- Acknowledge the importance and role of the club coaches who provide their time free
- Promote their child's participation in playing sport for fun.
- Ensure their child is aware of their responsibilities as a representative of the club in terms of behaviour while playing for the club, their county/country or on organised club trips.

Parents/Guardians have the right to:

- Know their child is safe and in the care of vetted & appropriately trained coaches and managers.
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to their children.
- Be informed if their child is injured, the mechanism of injury & what treatment was administered.
- Have their consent sought in a timely fashion for team trips or activities out of normal scheduled training/matches.
- Offer suggestions to the Committee about improvements to the club.
- Complain if they have concerns about the standard of coaching.
- Confidentially contact the Designated Liaison Person or a club Childrens Officer with any concerns they may have about their child.
- Give or decline to give consent for photos/videos of their child for publication.

Code of Conduct – Coaches

All Coaches MUST have an in date Basketball Ireland Garda Vetting Certificate in order to Coach a Malahide Basketball Club Team as per National Vetting Bureau Act 2012-2016.

Once the vetting process is completed the coach will receive a Vetting Certificate with an expiry date from Basketball Ireland. A copy of this Cert will be sent to the Club and kept on file until expired or until the coach leaves the club by the Club Children's Officer or Designated Club Officer (e.g. Compliance Officer) This certificate is also required to apply for a Basketball Ireland Coaching licence and to apply for membership of the Dublin Officials Association.

Player-Centered Approach to Coaching

Coaches need to be aware of why children want to play basketball. 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 should aim to provide a safe and enjoyable environment where children and young people are placed at the centre of all activities. In promoting good practice and creating a child/player-centered approach coaches should:

- Act as good role models.
- Encourage and be positive during sessions so that players leave with a sense of achievement.
- 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 or achieving results.
- Enforce the principles of fair play treating each player equally, with dignity and respect and ensure that 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.

In keeping children and young people at the forefront of planning and practice, coaches can be confident that participants will enjoy their basketball experiences and that their actions are regarded as safe and in keeping with the principle that the welfare of children is of paramount consideration.

Coaches are given a position of trust by parents/guardians and players, and should show the highest standards of behaviour whilst in the company of under-age players.

It is important that coaches follow an agreed code of good practice and parents/guardians/club officials are satisfied that coaches are suitable to lead the activities undertaken.

Coaches/volunteers should never:

- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Share a room with a young person alone on away trips.
- Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and/or make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child.
- Use any form of corporal punishment or physical force on a young person.
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult.
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of young people.

Most coaches work in an environment where it is recognised that, in a sporting context, certain types of coaching require a 'hands on approach', i.e., it may be necessary to support a participant in order to physically demonstrate a particular technique. This should only occur when necessary and in an open and appropriate way with the knowledge, permission and full understanding of the participant concerned and his/her parents/guardians. Coaches must realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted, not only by the player, but by outsiders motivated by jealousy, dislike or mistrust and could lead to allegations of sexual misconduct or impropriety. Therefore coaches should be aware of, and avoid all situations conducive to risk.

Where possible, coaches/volunteers should avoid:

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children alone away from others.
- Taking sessions alone (always employ "Two Deep" supervision). If team manager is not available a parent may provide supervision for training sessions. Coach should contact club committee about finding another supervisor rather than taking a session on their own.
- Taking children to their homes.
- Taking children on journeys alone in their care.
- Accepting junior members as 'friends' on their personal social media accounts.

Safety:

Coaches have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the players with whom they work as far as 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. The club committee should be informed as soon as possible of any issues in this regard.
- Appropriate safety rules should be adopted and implemented.
- Parents/guardians should be informed in a timely manner of the starting and finishing times of training sessions and matches and updated of any changes as soon as possible.
- A first aid kit will be provided by the club for each team and should be available at all training sessions /matches. Injuries should be recorded, with a note of action taken in relation to each

one. Club coaches and managers will be offered First Aid for Sport training. Never play injured players.

- Parents/guardians should be notified of injuries/illness which their children incur while participating in any basketball activity.
- A record of attendance should be kept for all training sessions and notes on any issues arising.