

Malahide Basketball Club



Club Code of Conduct

- Children**
- Coaches**
- Parents**

2025 / 2026 Season

Code of conduct for children

Children/young people 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.
- 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.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Members 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.
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke 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.
- Make your club a fun place to be.

Children/Young people have the right to

- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be listened to.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Privacy.

- Enjoy your sport in a protective environment.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.
- Be protected from abuse by other member or outside sources.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed.
- Ask for help.
- Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be addressed by the immediate coach and reported verbally to the designated person. Persistent misbehaviour will result in dismissal.
- Dismissals can be appealed by the coach/volunteer with final decisions taken by the club committee or referred to the governing body depending on the disciplinary procedures within the sport.

Code of Conduct – Parents

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Positively reinforce their child/young person and show an interest in their chosen activity. Support your child's involvement 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.
- Deliver and collect the child punctually to and from coaching sessions/matches.
- Ensure their child is properly and adequately attired for the weather conditions of the time, including shorts, shirt, socks, tracksuit, sweat-tops, hat, gloves, water bottles, sun cream etc.
- Ensure that proper footwear and protective equipment are worn at ALL times in accordance with Health and Safety Regulations. Any child not in possession of the fundamental requirements will not be permitted to participate.
- Detail any health concerns pertaining to the child on the consent form, in particular breathing or chest conditions. Any changes in the state of the child's health should be reported
- To inform the coach prior to departure from the field of play if child is to be collected early from a coaching session.
- Encourage their child to play by the rules and teach them that they can only do their best. Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all.
- Behave responsibly on the side-lines; 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.
- Ensure their child is punctual.
- Be realistic and supportive.
- Provide their child with proper clothing and equipment.
- Ensure their child's hygiene and nutritional needs are met.
- Accept the official's judgement.
- Acknowledge the importance and role of the club coaches who provide their time free
- Promote their child's participation in playing sport for fun.

Parents/Guardians have the right to

- Know their child is safe.
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to their children.
- Be informed if their child is injured.
- Have their consent sought for issues such as trips.
- Contribute to decisions within the club.
- Complain if they have concerns about the standard of coaching.

Code Of Conduct – Coaches

Player Centred Approach

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 centred 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 away from others.
- Taking sessions alone (always employ "Two Deep" supervision).
- Taking children to their homes.
- Taking children on journeys alone in their care.

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.
- Appropriate safety rules should be adopted and implemented.
- 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. Never play injured players.
- Parents/guardians should be notified of injuries/illness which their children incur while participating in any basketball activity a positive approach to the involvement of children in sport.

