

"Shout Praise. Whisper criticism"

(Don Meyer)

Cahersiveen Basketball Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all its members. Fair play is the guiding principle of The Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. Every individual in the Club should at all times, show respect and understanding for a member's rights, safety & welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, and the requirements under The Children First Act 2015.

Safeguarding or Child Protection: -The term child protection has been extended to safeguarding as it reflects the wider responsibility for health safety and prevention as well as just protection from abuse. It may be defined as: Doing everything possible to minimise the risk of harm to children and young people. Safeguarding is about being proactive and putting measures in place in advance of any contact with children to ensure that children are going to be kept safe.

Guidelines to Support Adult Members/Volunteers of the Club:

- A coach/team manager working with a juvenile children's team(s) has a duty of care. Children have a right to be protected from all forms of abuse and harm.
- An Official must act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of sport and of basketball and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct.
- Remember your behaviour to players, other officials, and opponents will have an effect on the players in your care.
- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game. All young players are entitled to respect.
- Insist that players in your care respect the rules of the game. Insist on fair play and ensure that your players know that you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.
- Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill and playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition.
- Never make winning the only objective. Provide each junior member with a chance to participate.
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors, and other coaches and avoid criticism of fellow officials.
- Set realistic goals for the team and for the individual players and do not push young players. Create a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Avoid working alone and ensure there is adequate supervision for all activities. At least two adults to be present at training at all times (coach + 1). A Parent Rota must be set up at the start of each season by each team.
- Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature – if you are not qualified to do so. Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information.

Do:

- Be Positive during a session, praise and encourage effort as well as results
- Put welfare of young person first, strike a balance between this and winning / results
- Encourage fair play, treat participants equally
- Recognise developmental needs
- Coaches/team managers should keep record of attendance at training
- Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken
- If behavioural problems arise and a young player has to be disciplined, keep a brief record of problem/action/outcome and communicate with Committee in the first instance.

Avoid:

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others
- Taking sessions alone
- Taking children to their (the Officials) home
- Taking children on journeys alone in their (Officials) car

Do Not:

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward
- 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
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adults

Safety

- Officials should be aware of potential risks to safety and take steps to safeguard against these risks
- Ensure activities are suitable for age and stage of development of participants
- Record attendance at each training session and competition
- Keep a record of any specific medical conditions of the players
- Keep a record of emergency contact numbers for parents / guardians
- If an incident occurs, make a brief record of injury and action taken. Make a brief record of the problem/action/outcome. Contact the participants parents and keep them informed of all details. Make contact with the Children's Officer as soon as possible
- Participants should know and keep the rules of their sport
- Officials should take part in appropriate training as and when offered in order to hold appropriate qualifications required by the governing body
- Have adequate insurance cover for all activities under the relevant body e.g. club or school
- Make parents/guardians aware of their duty to be present at finishing time of sessions or events

Guidelines to Support Young Players:

Cahersiveen Basketball Club wishes to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in the sport. Young players deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. These players have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities which that they must accept, including the responsibility of treating sports leaders and other participants with fairness and respect.

Young players are entitled to:

- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Be safe and to feel safe
- To get help against bullies
- To say No
- To be listened to
- To be believed
- To protect their own bodies
- To refuse inappropriate touches
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy sport
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Make complaints and have them dealt with confidentiality

Do:

- Treat all coaches, managers, selectors, club and tournament organisers and officials with respect
- Abide by the rules set down by coaches/team managers when travelling to away events.
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the game of Basketball and the club into disrepute
- Play fairly at all times, do their best
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat
- Talk to the club children's officer or other designated person if they have any problems

Do Not:

- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage on or off the court
- Walk out of the hall during practise or a competition without asking permission
- Use bullying tactics to isolate another player
- Pass on gossip about another player or adult
- Make false allegations against other players or adults

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- Shout or argue with officials, coaches, selectors, teammates or opponents
- Harm team members, opponents, or their property
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player
- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage
- Take banned substances

- Keep information secret, especially if they or others have been caused harm
- Tell lies about other adults / young people
- Spread rumours

Cahersiveen Basketball Club Guidelines for Parents:

Cahersiveen Basketball Club is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all juvenile young players. Our first priority is the welfare of young players and we are committed to providing an environment, which will allow participants to perform to their best ability, free from bullying and intimidation. Cahersiveen Basketball Club also has a duty of care for volunteers working with juvenile young players on behalf of the club.

Cahersiveen Basketball Club believes that parents should:

- Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, with officials and organisers
- Encourage your child to play by the rules
- Always behave responsibly on the side-lines and do not seek to unfairly affect the game on court or the player on court
- Take care not to expose any junior young player, intentionally or unintentionally, to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- Always recognise the value and importance of the volunteers who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for your child
- Respect referees, coaches, organisers and other players
- Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of referees, coaches or organisers
- Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides
- Encourage mutual respect for teammates and opponents
- Ensure that their children are dropped and collected at the appointed times
- Check transport plans and be happy with the arrangements

Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive and bullying behaviour in all its forms:

- Child to Child – includes physical aggression, verbal bullying, intimidation, or isolation
- Adult to Child – includes the use of repeated gestures or expressions of a threatening or intimidating nature, or any comment intended to degrade the child
- Adult to Adult – includes verbal aggression towards other adults in order to achieve a beneficial outcome for own self or own child
- Child to Adult - includes repeated gestures or expressions of a threatening or intimidating nature by an individual child or a group of children

Child Abuse & Reporting

Cahersiveen Basketball Club has a responsibility to protect children in order that appropriate agencies can then make enquiries and take any necessary action to protect the young person.

Actions to Take:

- React Calmly
 - Take what the child is saying seriously
 - Listen compassionately and carefully
 - Observe
 - Take note of dates, times, locations and contexts in which the incident occurred, or suspicion was aroused
 - keep the questions to an absolute minimum, facilitating the child to tell about the problem
 - Note any other relevant information
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- Report the matter as soon as possible to the person designated for reporting abuse (and no one else)
 - If designated person has reasonable grounds for believing that the child has been abused or is at risk of abuse, s/he will make a report to the health board/social services that have statutory responsibility to investigate and assess suspected or actual child abuse
 - In cases of emergency, where a child appears to be at immediate and serious risk and the designated person is unable to contact a duty social worker, An Garda Síochána should be contacted
 - Under no circumstances should a child be left in a dangerous situation pending intervention by the Statutory Authorities
 - Make a record of the report
 - If the designated person is unsure whether reasonable grounds for concern exist or not, s/he should informally consult with the local HSE services. S/he will be advised whether or not the matter requires a formal report
 - A designated person reporting suspected or actual child abuse to the Statutory Authorities should first inform the family of their intention to make such a report, unless doing so would endanger the child or undermine an investigation
 - A report should be given by the designated person to the Statutory Authorities in person or by phone, and in writing; It is best to report child abuse concerns by making personal contact with the relevant personnel in the Statutory Authorities

Actions to be Avoided:

- Do not make promises of confidentiality – it may not be possible to keep that promise
- Do not make a judgement or make negative comments about the alleged abuser
- Do not speculate or make assumptions
- Do not interview the child – do not probe for more information than is offered
- Do not approach the alleged abuser
- Do not allow your shock or distaste to show

Confidentiality:

- Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned
- Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only
- Information should be stored in a secure place, with limited access to designated people
- The requirements of the Data Protection laws should be adhered to
- Breach of confidentiality is a serious manner

Allegations Of Abuse Against Sports Leaders:

Cahersiveen Basketball Club has an agreed procedure to be followed in cases of alleged child abuse against Sports Leaders. If such an allegation is made the following procedure must be followed, as per detailed in Reporting Child Abuse.

The following points should be considered:

- The safety of the child making the allegation and any others who are/may be at risk should be ensured and this should take precedence over any other consideration
- In this regard, the club shall take any necessary steps which may be immediately necessary to protect children
- If a Sports Leader is the subject of the concern s/he should be treated with respect and fairness

Steps to be taken within the Club:

- Advice should be sought from the local HSE with regard to any action by the club deemed necessary to protect the child/children who may be at risk
- The matter should be reported to the local HSE following the standard reporting procedure
- In the event that the concern is connected to the actions of a Sports Leader in the club, the Sports Leader involved in the concern should be asked to stand aside pending the outcome of any investigation by the Statutory Authorities
- It is advisable that this task be undertaken by an appointed committee member other than the Designated person who takes the responsibility for reporting
- The Sports Leader should be informed, in private that an allegation has been made against him/her, the nature of the allegation and S/he should be afforded an opportunity to respond
- His/her response should be noted and passed on to the Health Service Executive personnel
- All persons involved in a child protection process (the child, his/her parents/guardians, the alleged offender, his/her family, Sports Leaders) should be afforded appropriate respect, fairness, support and confidentiality at all stages of the procedure

Anonymous Complaints:

- Anonymous complaints can be difficult to deal with but should not be ignored. In all cases the safety and welfare of the child/children is paramount
- Any such complaints relating to inappropriate behaviour should be brought to the attention of the Designated Person
- The information should be checked out and handled in a confidential manner.

Rumours:

- Rumours should not be allowed to hang in the air
- Any rumours relating to inappropriate behaviour should be brought to the attention of the Designated Person and checked out without delay

Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure:

All members of the club who are dissatisfied are required to register their complaint in writing and an open process of investigation will be conducted and responded to in writing

- Complaints may be lodged by all members of the club
- They should be received in writing by the Children's Officer of the club
- The complaint should outline all relevant details about other parties involved
- The complaint should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson who will convene the disciplinary committee
- If the complaint involves a criminal offence the designated person should disband the disciplinary committee
- The statutory authorities should then be informed
- The disciplinary committee should hear the case of all parties involved and decide if a rule or regulation has been infringed
- They should, in writing, inform those involved of the sanctions to be imposed. Written notification should be given to parents if the complaint is against a junior member
- Keep all records on file
- If any party does not agree with the disciplinary committee, they can appeal the decision in writing within 10-day period
- The appeals committee is convened, with persons not on the original disciplinary committee
- The appeals committee should confirm or set aside or change any sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee

Cahersiveen Basketball Club Guidelines on use of Photographic and Filming Equipment including mobile phones at Competitions / Practice Sessions / & Coaching Aid:

- Amateur photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the coach/team manager/organiser
- During competitions or practice sessions, children must **not** be photographed or filmed without their permission and the express permission of one of their parents or person acting for the parent
- A record of the permission should be kept
- Professional photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the event organiser by producing their professional identification for the details to be recorded
- A record should be kept of accreditations
- Video equipment can be used as a legitimate coaching aid. However, permission should first be obtained from the player and the player's parent/carer
- Anyone concerned about any photography taking place at events or training sessions can contact the club's children's officer, coach, team manager or organisers and ask them to deal with the matter
- Mobile phones and with camera facilities should be strictly monitored during training and in dressing rooms. At the start of each underage training sessions, mobile phones to be placed on table in hall, minded by an adult at training session and collected by underage player at end of training

Recruitment:

Volunteers/Sports Leaders. (Sports Leaders: all adults involved in children's sport)

Cahersiveen Basketball Club will:

- Take reasonable steps to ensure that suitable people work with young players. Procedures will be adopted for all persons with substantial access to young people
- All volunteers must agree to abide by the club's Code of Ethics and Behaviour
- All coaches must be made aware of guidelines for coaches
- All team managers must be made aware of guideline
- Formal vetting procedures should be availed of
- Safeguarding 1 to be availed of
- A decision to appoint a Sports Leader is the responsibility of the Club and not of any one individual within it
- Every effort will be made to manage and support appointed Sport Leaders

Reviewed by Cahersiveen Basketball Committee on 17/09/2025

If any queries, please contact:

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