

St. Mary's Basketball Club – Parents Code of Good Practice.

(These guidelines have been written in accordance with Basketball Ireland's code of good practice for parents and carers.)

Parents/Carers should:

- Support the club and its policies. Help implement best-practice and safeguarding policies, understand the club's rules, and ensure your child follows the Code of Conduct.
- Get involved. Contribute time and effort to the club where possible, and fulfil any required duties, including safeguarding-related responsibilities.
- Respect coaches and club officials. Understand their roles, respect their decisions and recognise that decisions should be made in the best interests of the children.
- Ensure your child commits to training and playing on the team they are picked on. All children must play on their own team before being considered playing up.
- Raise concerns appropriately. Speak to a coach or club leader at an appropriate time and place, rather than confronting them while they are supervising children or discussing the matter in front of young people.

What should a parent do in practice if you have a concern?

1. Allow time to cool off (recommend 24hrs) after a game or training session before raising a concern about selection, playing time or a coaching decision.
 2. Arrange a private conversation with the coach rather than approaching them in front of players, other parents or spectators.
 3. Do not involve children in adult conversations/discussions, either face to face or via text/WhatsApp.
 4. Keep the discussion constructive, focusing on the child's development, welfare and enjoyment.
 5. Escalate unresolved concerns through the club's appropriate committee or safeguarding officer, following its complaints procedure.
- Follow the complaints procedure. If you feel you have been treated unfairly, use the club's formal process. Complaints should be handled effectively and confidentially.
 - Take responsibility for your child's safety. Know the training and competition schedule, arrange transport and collection, and ensure your child is not left waiting unsupervised.
 - Promote fair play and enjoyment. Encourage participation, fun, safety, respect and sportsmanship rather than making winning the main objective.
 - Be a positive role model. Behave respectfully at training, matches and other club activities.
 - Keep the club informed. Tell the appropriate leaders about absences, medical conditions or other relevant information, and provide accurate emergency contact details.
 - Respect privacy and safeguarding rules. Follow the club's policies on mobile phones, photography, video recording and other camera equipment.

Parents please remember to contact the club with any questions or issues, if the club is not informed of issues/concerns then they cannot be addressed!!!! Emails : stmarysbball@hotmail.com or safeguardingstmarys1@gmail.com

St. Mary's Basketball Club – Code of Good Practices – Quick Guide.

Players' Top Rules.

1. Attend your training sessions with a positive attitude & commit to your team.
2. Respect coaches, referees, club officials & accept decisions gracefully.
3. Play fair- control your behaviour and act with dignity.
4. Be gracious in victory and defeat.
5. Support your teammates – applaud everyone's effort.
6. Respect facilities, equipment & officials.

Coaches' Top Rules.

1. Encourage participation, effort and fun by promoting development of skills as opposed to winning at all costs.
2. Ensure that there is more than one coach/helper at training/games & ensure all female teams have a female helper or coach.
3. Place the well-being and welfare of children and young people above all else.
4. Act as a good role model – actively discourage any abuse towards officials, referees or other teams.
5. Use appropriate language at all times.
6. Ensure you do not involve children in adult conversations/discussions.

Parents' Top Rules.

1. Encourage positively – praise effort and commitment.
2. Encourage your child to have a positive attitude towards their team and opponents.
3. Be a good role model; respect coaches, officials and committee members – they are volunteers.
4. No sideline coaching – let the coach do their job.
5. Support the club and its policies; volunteer where possible.
6. Take responsibility for your child's behaviour and attitude.

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