

Code of Conduct for Coaches

A Coach working with a juvenile team(s) has a duty of care which is more onerous than that of a coach to an adult team though the fundamental principles apply to both.

Coaches must make every effort to create a SAFE and enjoyable environment for children by:

- Hold appropriate qualifications required by Basketball Ireland.
- Have completed Garda e-Vetting process.
- Have completed the Safeguarding course.
- Planning and preparing appropriately and “be positive” during sessions.
- Making sure all levels of participation should be enjoyable and fun.
- Prioritising skill development and personal satisfaction over highly structured competition.
- Setting age appropriate and realistic goals.
- Avoiding favouritism - each young player will need attention according to their sporting needs.
- Praising and encouraging effort as well as results.
- Showing respect for all involved, children and adults.
- Ensure activities are suitable for the age and stage of development of young players.
- Ensure young players know and keep the rules of Basketball as appropriate to them.
- Ensure all players are properly registered prior to participating in training / games

Coaches must recognise and ensure the WELFARE of children by:

- Not exposing a player to criticism, hostility or sarcasm.
- Never swearing at, ridiculing, shouting unnecessarily or arguing with a young player.
- Being aware of a young players' developmental needs.
- Working in an open environment.
- Ensuring there is adequate supervision.
- Involving and updating parents, especially if a problem has arisen.
- Respecting a young player's sensitivity.
- Never using physical punishment or force.
- Not using verbal or physical punishments or exclusion for mistakes.
- Never enter a dressing room occupied by children of the opposite gender unless:
 - a) Accompanied by at least 1 other adult that has completed the Garda e-Vetting process and holds a valid Safeguarding Certificate.
 - b) At least 1 of the adults is of the same gender as the group occupying the dressing room.
- Cancel a training session where they are the only adult within the facility.

Coaches in GENERAL should:

- 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
- Be Positive during a session, praise and encourage effort as well as results.
- Plan and prepare appropriately.
- Put the welfare of young players first, strike a balance between this and winning/Results.

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 car.
- Interacting with young players online.
- Do not use any form of punishment or physical force on young players.
- Exert undue influence over a young player in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.

Coaches should familiarise themselves with the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Basketball Ireland Code of Conduct and the Basketball Ireland Code of Ethics for Children's Sport and follow the procedures, if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse of any sort and immediately notify the Naas Serpents Basketball Club Child Welfare Officer cwonaasbasketball@gmail.com