



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

Introduction

This code of conduct is intended to be utilised alongside the EIHA's Code of Conduct for Working with Children, and builds on that document, highlighting additional expectations which go with the role of a Coach.

Sports Coaches are recognised as people who are highly influential in a child's life, especially where that child has ambitions to achieve at a high level within the sport. This level of influence carries with it both risks and responsibilities. The following guidance is intended to mitigate those risks and to assist coaches in discharging those responsibilities to the highest standards.

Player Wellbeing

Coaches should:

- Be aware of the physical needs of participants, especially the developmental stage and needs of children, and ensure that training loads and intensities are appropriate and well managed.
- Take account of players' emotional maturity as well as physical development.
- Respect each junior player as an individual and be responsive to their needs.
- Avoid overplaying players, ensuring that they have adequate rest and recovery time between games and training sessions.
- Not encourage injured players to return too early or to play while injured. You must follow the advice of a doctor in determining whether an injured player is ready to play again. Take as much interest in those players who are sick or injured as in those who are fit.
- Not utilise bullying, verbal abuse or intimidation as part of their coaching style.
- Actively educate players on issues relating to the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport, ensuring that they are aware of which substances are banned (where age-appropriate).
- Maintain the same level of interest and support when a player is sick or injured.
- Make reasonable efforts to cooperate with specialists such as physiotherapists and doctors.

Equality and Diversity

Coaches are required to:

- Respect and champion the right of every child to participate in our sport and to facilitate to this as far as possible.
- Adhere to the EIHA's Equality and Diversity Policy at all times, avoiding any discrimination on the grounds of protected characteristics.
- Challenge any discrimination or bullying engaged in by players or other volunteers or staff.
- Do not discriminate under the Equality act 2010/Protected categories.

Professional conduct

Coaches should:

- Refrain from any public criticism or demeaning descriptions of others.
- Maintain confidentiality of players, parents and other volunteers.
- Develop relationships with participants, coaches or any other individuals based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect.
- Promote fair play and behave within the rules of the sport at all times.
- Always respect the decisions of match officials and encourage players and parents to do the same.
- Never engage in public criticism of match officials.
- Ensure that any physical contact is appropriate and necessary.
- Not engage in any form of sexually related contact or enter into an intimate/sexual relationship with any participant for whom they have responsibility for or have authority over, or could have authority over or responsibility for.
- Refrain from any form of sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms.
- Inform parents or guardians immediately if they have any concerns whatsoever about the welfare of a child, unless this would not be in the interests of the child, or would go against guidance offered in this handbook, in which case advice should be sought from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Know and understand the relevant child protection/ safeguarding policies and procedures and adhere to them at all times.
- Follow the reporting procedures laid down by the EIHA if the Coach has concerns: taking no action, or turning a blind eye is unacceptable and would be a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- Attain a high level of competence through qualifications, and undertake ongoing training that ensures safe and correct practice.
- Ensure the environment for participants is as safe as possible, taking into account and minimising possible risks.
- Promote the execution of safe and correct practice.
- Be professional and accept responsibility for their actions
- Actively contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to improve the standards and quality of coaching;
- Undertake coaching in an open and transparent fashion that encourages other coaches to contribute to, or learn from, their knowledge and experience.

- Not make approaches to players from other clubs to encourage them to change club.

Responsibilities – Personal Standards

Coaches must:

- Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.
- Promote fair play and behave within the spirit of the sport and the rules of the game.
- Adhere to the EIHA’s disciplinary rules and procedures.
- Always respect the decisions of match officials and encourage players and parents to do the same.
- Never engage in public criticism of match officials.
- Not utilise any performance enhancing drugs or other banned substances.
- Display high standards in use of language, general manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation;
- Not smoke, drink alcohol or use recreational drugs before or while coaching or when otherwise in the company of players or likely to be seen by them.
- Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in the sport.

Safeguarding Requirements

- Adhere to all EIHA Policies and Procedures linked to Safeguarding, including GDPR regulations.
- Attend all required training on Safeguarding.
- Be familiar with signs of abuse and report any concerns or disclosures to the Club DSL.
- Ensure that you provide the club with an up to date DBS certificate and comply with renewal of this every 3 years.
- Disclose to the Club DSL anything which might alter your DBS status.

I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct explained to me and also to abide by all other safeguarding policies and procedures of the club and EIHA.	
Volunteer/Staff member Name (Print)	
Volunteer / Staff member Signature	
Club DSL Name (Print)	
Club DSL Signature	
Date	