



Codes of Conduct for Coaches, - Relating to General Behaviour

Coaches should be aware of their specific role (as coach or player) on any given occasion and behave accordingly. Whilst a fun, friendly atmosphere is beneficial, the Coach should maintain their authority and avoid being seen as “one of the squad”.

Coaches are responsible for ensuring a safe playing and training environment.

Coaches should ensure that they provide good examples of behaviour to players. Good sporting behaviour and respect for team-mates, opponents, officials and supporters should be demonstrated by Coaches and encouraged by them in players. Players should be taught to play within the rules of the game.

Coaches should support each other, ensuring that they do not undermine their fellows to players – this does not encourage good discipline or respect for coaching staff.

At all times, Coaches should ensure that training is an enjoyable, positive experience for players. Variety in drills and session formats keeps players' interest and enthusiasm and allows all to practice and improve diverse skills.

Coaches must ensure that sessions are planned to meet the needs of the players involved, taking account of levels of both emotional and physical ability, age and experience. Players should not be pushed to attempt drills that are outside their range of understanding or ability. Aside from the lack of enjoyment likely in these circumstances, injuries could result.

Regardless of ability, all players deserve equal opportunities to improve skills, so Coaches should ensure that they do not focus time and support on “star” players to the detriment of those less skilled or with less experience.

Negative, critical or abusive comments, shouting, loss of temper or ridicule will undermine a player's confidence and have a detrimental effect on their performance.

Positive, encouraging comments from Coaches are likely to result in a player's improvement. However, Coaches should avoid creating too-high expectation of performance, as this could become stressful for the player.

All training should be given in the main session – individual guidance should take place in a suitably demarcated section of the playing area.

Do not touch, hold or reach around a player – everyone has a different concept of personal space and contact and this might seem threatening or make them uncomfortable.

Players should not be encouraged to play if injury is known or suspected.

Players returning from injury/illness should be encouraged to take time to recover fully and work back up to full fitness.

Coaches must not attempt to “poach” high-ability players from other clubs.

Coaches should accept opportunities to improve their own skills and be open to suggestions of drills or exercises from other Coaches or players.

Players' confidence in their own and their team's potential ability should be built by Coaches. Be open to players' suggestions for training activities – their remarks will provide insight into the areas in which they and their team-mates feel in need of support. If a suggestion does not work immediately, consider how it could be adapted.

Coaches should ensure that they have good understanding of game rules etc. and keep abreast of changes or any variations to be used in friendly matches or tournaments.

In the event of injury to a player, Coaches should pass their care to an adult Coach/ Manager/ Committee member off the Court, or the parent of a child player, so that the Coach is able to continue to focus on the remaining players.

The coach should provide the person taking over care of the player with a clear description of how the injury occurred. If serious injury is suspected, give or write a brief account of events as soon as possible. This will allow later assessment of whether/how future injuries might be avoided or indicate any developing incident patterns.

In the event of a player exhibiting poor sportsmanship / bad tempered behaviour which has not been resolved, the Coach might feel that a period off-court to regain composure is necessary. If the player is a child, an adult Committee member should be informed of the circumstances and charged with monitoring the player.

I have read the Coaches' Codes of Conduct and all policies relating to the club and the role of Club Coach and I agree to abide by them.

Coach's Name:

Coach's Signature:

Date:



Codes of Conduct for Coaches, - Relating to Child Protection

Coaches particularly of children and young people hold a powerful and unique leadership role, often carrying considerable authority and status. Such a role is frequently accompanied by a closeness and mutual trust usually held only between parent or carer and child or young person. Coaches can often wittingly or unwittingly assume this power and authority and it is possible this influence can spill over into a child's or young person's private life. One of the challenges coaches repeatedly face is to manage this potential power and balance the responsible and safe boundary between coach and player/s.

Coaches of young players start by using their authority to build a strong relationship or bond. This can and often does result in the coach having a very positive influence over the child or young person. Sometimes this influence develops to become more powerful than even the influence of the parents or carers or schoolteachers. Over a period of time and from this strong bond the all-important trust normally develops.

With the development of this trust there is an increased vulnerability and the potential for a coach to misuse or even abuse this power. This could be as a result of thoughtlessness, negligence or deliberate action. Even a passive type of abuse of power by a coach such as questioning loyalty or commitment may enhance the child's or young persons need for belonging.

There is a close but potentially dangerous relationship between coach and player involving commitment and conformity, coaches must recognise this fact and avoid any negative consequences of power and therefore maintain and understand their responsibility.

All approved coaching members of Banbury Bulldogs Skater Hockey Club must accept the following without contention:

Good practice guidelines:

- always working in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment with no secrets).
- treating all children and young people with respect and dignity
- always putting the welfare of each child or young person first, before winning or achieving goals
- maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with a player(s) (e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child or share a room with them)
- building a balanced relationship based on mutual trust which empowers children and young persons to share in the decision making process
- try to make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play
- ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support or assistance is required, it should be provided openly. Attention of the players parent or carer should be drawn to any difficulties especially where maintaining hand positions during the development of shooting and passing may require physical contact to ensure correct stance or movement. Children and young people should be consulted prior to the instruction to gain their agreement of assistance. Parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about manual support and assistance in sport
- keep up to date with the technical skills, qualifications and insurance in hockey

- involving parents/carers or assistants wherever possible (e.g. for the responsibility of their children or young people in the changing rooms, If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms always ensure parents, carers, coaches, officials work in pairs
- Ensuring if mixed teams are taken away they should always be accompanied by a male and female official. (Do not overlook the possibility of same gender abuse)
- ensuring that while attending events involving residential accommodation that adults do not enter a child's or young person's room nor must the adults invite a child or young person into the adult's room
- being an excellent role model, this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in any company of children or young people
- giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- recognising the development needs and capacity of children and young people and disabled adults avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will

- securing parental consent in writing to act '*in loco parentis*' if the need arises to give permission for administration of emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment
- keeping a written record of any injury that occurs complete with the treatment given
- requesting written parental consent if club officials are required to transport children or young people in their cars

Practices to be avoided

The following should be avoided except in emergencies. If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable they should only happen with the full knowledge and consent of an Club officer and the child's or young person's parents or carer. (e.g. if a child or young person sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital or a parent fails to arrive to collect a child or young person at the end of training)

- avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with a child or young person away from others
- avoid taking children or young persons to your home where they will be alone with you
- avoid transporting one child or young person regularly on his or her own in your car
- raise concerns if it is felt the behaviour of another adult towards a child or young person is unacceptable

Practices never to be sanctioned:

The following must **never** be sanctioned, as a coach you must never;

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- share a room with a child
- allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- allow children or young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child or Young person, even in fun
- reduce a child to tears as a form control for implementation of a better performance
- allow allegations made by a child or young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- do things of a personal nature for a child, young person or disabled adult, that they can do for themselves
- invite or allow children or young persons to stay with you at your home unsupervised
- never enter the room of a child or young person without an accompanying adult
- invite a child or young person to your car