

# Sports Leaders Code of Conduct (Including Adult Captains)

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Leaders should familiarise themselves with the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport*, and the *Cricket Ireland Code of Conduct*, and follow procedures if they suspect abuse, or receive complaints of abuse.

The following outlines the standard behaviours expected of our leaders in our sport.

## Leaders should:

- Involve parents where possible and inform parents when problems arise
- Keep a record of attendance at training and competitions
- Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken (on an 'accident template')
- Keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise (on a 'concerns template')
- Report any concerns to the Children's Officer or a Designated Liaison Person in accordance with this Code's reporting procedures
- Encourage young people to respect one another including their opponents and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of play
- Be acutely aware of the power that you, as a coach, can be perceived by the players to have over them
- Develop coaching relationships which recognise any imbalance of power and avoid any intimacy with young people that could develop as a result; know the boundaries and don't cross them
- Encourage young people and other coaches to develop and maintain integrity in their relationship with others
- Make parents aware where cameras need to be used as a legitimate coaching tool. Obtain parental consent where needed
- Put the welfare of the young person first (be child-centred)
- Be positive during sessions and competitions, praise and encourage effort as well as results; strike a balance between effort and winning/results
- Encourage fair play and treat all participants equally
- Recognise developmental needs, ensuring activities are appropriate for the individual's age and/or stage
- Plan and prepare appropriately
- Complete the Safeguarding 1 training and be committed to the values and guidelines of Cricket Ireland

## Where possible Leaders should avoid:

- Communicating with U18s on *WhatsApp* or social media, or sharing material with children via social media; any act of this nature should firstly be with the child's parent/guardian or have parental consent that states they have knowledge of this communication group and/or the material (i.e., they are informed there is a team WhatsApp group – this should also have at least three parents included)
- Any contact with children not related to coaching, matches and cricket related-activity
- Touching unnecessarily to show a technical move. If a person can do it themselves give them directions, ask them to do what is needed (i.e., can you put your arm up like this? if that doesn't work, ask them 'is it ok if I move your arm/leg' etc

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

## **Sports Leaders should not:**

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child
- Exert undue influence over a participant 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. This includes innuendo, flirting, or inappropriate gestures and terms
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult and permission of the parent(s)
- Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political, or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your players
- Never communicate or form a “friendship” with children online with the intent of arranging to meet in the “real world”
- Never ask anyone to keep secrets of any kind as this may create an environment where leaders have a special relationship with some young people some

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Sports Leader signature

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Print name

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CO/DLP signature

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Print name

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Date

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