

# What Should Be Considered When Creating Codes of Conduct

When creating codes of conduct for your organisation, they should be written for the specific group they apply to. In physical activity and sports environments it's common to have codes of conduct for:

- Participants
- Parents or Carers
- Coaches and Officials.

Codes of conduct set standards for acceptable behaviour and while every organisation will have their own codes of conduct specific to its physical activity or sport and environment, here are some considerations that codes of conduct may include:

## Codes of Conduct for Participants

Safety is one of the primary considerations for your participants, so their code of conduct should have this at the heart of it. This might include things like:

- Following coaching instructions
- Moving around the space safely
- Staying with their group unless instructed otherwise
- Being careful and respectful with any equipment
- Wearing appropriate clothing (including hair/nails/jewellery).

In addition, you want the experience to be a truly positive one for them and everyone else taking part. This might include things like:

- Celebrating success
- Being kind and encouraging others
- Appreciating differences
- Reporting anything that makes them feel uncomfortable (including details of who and how).

## Codes of Conduct for Parents or Carers

Parents or Carers play a key role in supporting their child's involvement and enjoyment of physical activity and sport and they will usually be the communication point for you as a coach. Their code of conduct should reflect this and might include:

- Making sure their participants are on time and ready to train
- Making sure the participants have the right kit for sessions
- Making sure participants are collected on time, and if not collected by the parent or carer, who it will be
- Maintaining a positive relationship with the coach and other parents.

In addition, it might include clarity about their role as a supporter for their child's activity:

- Supporting all participants' success, not just their child
- Getting to know the sport, the rules and what their child enjoys about taking part
- Not being a side-line coach – leaving the coaching to the coaches
- Not pushing their child too much outside of sessions, unless support has been requested by the coach
- Being responsible in the use of social media and being other communication channels.

## **Codes of Conduct for Coaches and Officials**

Helping to keep participants safe and free from harm is a key part of the Duty of Care of coaches and other officials, so this should be a key theme in the Code of Conduct. It should reference elements like:

- Understanding and implementing all policies and procedures, including appropriate legislation
- Embedding safeguarding centrally in everything they do
- Respecting their position of trust and maintaining professional boundaries
- Safe supervision, within coaching qualification
- Ensuring safety, and appropriate use, of equipment
- Being a role model in all aspects of sportspersonship and positive behaviour
- Celebrating differences and promoting acceptance
- Working with parents to enhance the participant experience.

In addition, it might reference their critical part in the overall operations and also their representation of the sporting activity:

- Being part of decision making and getting involved
- Wearing appropriate and professional clothing/uniforms (including hair, jewellery, and nails)
- Not smoking or consuming alcohol before or during coaching
- Appropriate use of communication channels and social media
- Taking part in training and development opportunities
- Being a positive part of the team.