

15b. COACHES

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES:

A responsible sports coach helps the development of individuals through improving their performance. This is achieved by:

1. Identifying and meeting the needs of individuals
2. Improving performance through a progressive programme of safe, guided practice measured performance and/or competition
3. Creating an environment in which individuals are motivated to maintain participation and improve performance

Coaches should comply with the principles of good ethical practice listed below.

A coach must at all times:

1. Hold relevant, up to date and RCCC recognised coaching qualifications
2. Hold a valid PVG if applicable to their role
3. Make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play
4. Always work in an open environment. Avoid private or unobserved situations
5. Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of each athlete and avoid excessive training and competition, pushing them against their will and putting undue pressure on them
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport
7. Place the wellbeing and safety of the athlete above the development of performance
8. Encourage and guide athletes to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance by giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
9. Build balanced working relationships based on mutual trust and respect that empower and include athletes, both youth and senior, in the decision-making process.
10. Ensure that activities they deliver or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual
11. Clarify, at the outset, with athletes (and where appropriate with their parents) exactly what is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect from their coach
12. Always promote the positive aspects of curling (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances
13. Consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance, be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of adults
14. Co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, teachers, officials, sport scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the athlete
15. Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
16. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward. In particular, coaches must not use their position to establish or pursue a sexual or improper relationship with an athlete or someone close to them
17. Abide by the RCCC and Club Child Protection/Adult Protection policies and procedures
18. Coaches should not allow allegations to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon

Emergency action and first aid

All coaches, leaders, club volunteers and members should be prepared with an action plan in the event of an emergency and be aware of First Aid procedures. This will include:

- Access to First Aid equipment
- Telephone contact if the participant is a minor
- Telephone contact to the Emergency Services

Coaches have the right to:

1. Access ongoing training and information on all aspects of their role, including safeguarding
2. Support in reporting suspected abuse or poor practice
3. Access to professional support services
4. Fair and equitable treatment by the governing body/club
5. Be protected from abuse by adults/youths, other adult members and parents
6. Not to be left vulnerable while carrying out their role

Breaches of the Codes of Conduct will be addressed and reported to the designated person at club level and at the RCCC (where appropriate). Persistent breaches or a single significant act will result in disciplinary action being taken.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code of Conduct, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club or the RCCC:

- Be required to apologise formally
- Receive a warning; verbal or written
- Required to meet with the club, Welfare Officer or designated members of the club committee.
- Monitored by another club volunteer/committee member
- Required to attend an education course
- Suspended by the club
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

In addition:

- The RCCC could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club.
- The RCCC could suspend accredited coach status

I have read and understood the above Code of Conduct and I agree to be bound by it:

Signed Name (print) Role.....Date.....

