



**Founded in 1965**

## **Code of Ethics for Coaches**

Meteors Basketball Club (the '*Club*') recognises the key role Coaches, Team Managers and Volunteers play in the lives of children/ players in sport. All Coaches, Team Managers, Volunteers should have as their first priority the children's/ players safety and enjoyment of the sport and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in the *Club* Code of Ethics for Coaches. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability. The *Club* will take all reasonable steps to ensure that people working with young people in basketball are suitable and appropriately qualified.

Assessment procedures are therefore necessary and these procedures apply to all persons, paid or unpaid, with substantial access to young people. There must be a "sign-up" procedure, whereby the appointed/reappointed Coach and/or Team Manager agrees to abide by the *Club* Code of Ethics for Coaches and to the policies and code of Basketball Ireland (BI) and the Dublin Ladies Basketball Board (DLBB). When travel/overnight travel is involved, the Coach, Team Manager, Volunteers travelling with children must sign a separate agreement. Parents will also be asked to sign permission forms in these instances.

### **Guidelines for Coaches:**

- A Coach of Juvenile children's team(s) has a duty of care, which is more onerous than that of a Coach to an adult Senior team.
- A Coach must act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of sport and of basketball and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct.
- The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must be actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.



- Remember your behaviour to Players, *Club* & Game Officials and Opponents will have an effect on the players in your care.
- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game. **ALL** children/ young players are entitled to respect.
- Be careful to avoid the “star system”. Each child deserves equal time and attention.
- Care must be taken not to expose a child/ young player intentionally or unintentionally to embarrassment or disparagement by use of sarcastic or flippant remarks about the child/ young player or his/her family.
- Physical punishment or physical force must never be used. Never punish a mistake by verbal means, physical means, or exclusion.
- Insist that players in your care respect the rules of the game.
- Insist on fair play and ensure that your players know that you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.
- Remember that children/ young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill and playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition.
- Never make winning the only objective.
- Encourage the development of respect for Opponents, *Club* & Game Officials and other Coaches and avoid criticism of fellow Coaches.
- It is important to realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted by the participant or by outsiders.
- Coaches are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with players. It is inadvisable for Coaches to involve children/ young players in their personal life i.e. visits to Coaches home or overnight stays.
- When young players are invited into adult groups/squads, it is advisable to get agreement from a Parent/ Guardian. Boundaries of behaviour in adult groups are normally different from the boundaries that apply to Juvenile groups/squads. The Senior Coach should nominate one adult member of the group to take particular responsibility for the underage player. Where necessary, two adult members, one of each gender, can be appointed.
- Coaches who become aware of a conflict between their obligation to their players and their obligation to their governing body must make explicit the nature of the conflict and the loyalties and responsibilities involved, to all parties concerned.
- Coaches should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their players’ medical and psychological problems.
- Set realistic goals for the team and for the individual players and do not push young players. Create a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Do not criticise other *Club* or Game Officials, Coaches, and Team Managers. **You are the role model** for the children in your care.
- Avoid working alone and ensure there is adequate supervision for all activities.
- Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature if you are not qualified to do so.
- Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child/ young player requires the passing on of this information.



- Coaches should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their players' medical or related problems.

**It is advisable to:**

- Record attendance at training.
- Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken.
- If behavioural problems arise and a child/ young player has to be disciplined, keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes.
- The nature of the relationship between Coach and child/ young player can often mean that a Coach will learn confidential information about a player or player's family. This information must be regarded as confidential and except where abuse is suspected, must not be divulged to a third party without the express permission of the player/family.
- Coaches must be particularly careful about their use of alcohol, before coaching, during events, on trips with children/ young players.
- Coaches should familiarise themselves with the *Club* Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport and with the Basketball Ireland Code of Conduct and follow the procedures if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse of any sort.

**Do:**

- Be **Positive** during games and training sessions, praise and encourage effort as well as results.
- Plan and prepare appropriately.
- Put welfare of the child/young player first, strike a balance between this and winning / results.
- Encourage fair play, treat participants equally.
- Recognise developmental needs.
- Be Qualified and up-to-date with knowledge and skill of sport for young people.
- Involve parents where possible and Inform parents when problems arise.
- If behavioural problems arise and a child/ young player has to be disciplined, keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes and communicate to the *Clubs* Child Protection Officer.

**Avoid:**

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children/ young players away from others
- Taking sessions alone
- Taking children/ young player to their (Coaches) home
- Taking children/ young player on journeys alone in their (Coaches) car

**Do Not:**

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child/ young player.
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order 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/ young player.



- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult(s).
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children/ young players.

**Safety:**

- Coaches should be aware of potential risks to safety and take steps to safeguard against these risks.
- Ensure activities are suitable for age and stage of development of participants.
- Keep a record of any specific medical conditions of the participants.
- Keep a record of emergency contact numbers for Parents/ Guardians.
- Ensure appropriate kit is used.
- Know the contact numbers of emergency services.
- If an incident occurs, make a brief record of injury and action taken. Make a brief record of the problem/action/outcome. Contact the participants Parents and keep them informed of all details.
- Game Officials (Referees, Table Officials) should ensure the conduct of the game.
- Participants should know and keep the rules of their sport.
- Coaches should hold appropriate qualifications required by the Basketball Ireland (BI) and the Dublin Ladies Basketball Board (DLBB).
- Make Parents/ Guardians aware of their duty to be present at finishing time of sessions or events.

**Physical Contact:**

Physical contact during sport should always be intended to meet the child's/ young players needs – NOT the adult's. Adults should use appropriate contact which is aimed at assisting the development of the skill or activity or for safety reasons e.g. to prevent or treat an injury. This should be done in an open environment with the permission and understanding of the participant.

**In general:**

- Contact should be determined by the age and development stage of the participant.
- Don't do something that a child/ young player can do for itself.
- Never engage in inappropriate touching such as touching of groin, genital areas, buttocks, breasts or any other part of the body that might cause a child/ young player distress or embarrassment.

