

Tees Valley Sport “Codes of Behaviour Guidance” for Coaches and Officials

Tees Valley Sport has proposed the following guidance as a result of its commitment to the safeguarding of children in sport and in accordance with National Standards for Safeguarding Children in Sport produced by the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit.

The basic principle underpinning this guidance is respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals and as such the guidance should be used in direct association with Tees Valley Sport’s Equity Policy.

The “Codes of Behaviour Guidance” provides recommendations and good practice advice to providers of sport concerning codes of behaviour for participants, parents, coaches, officials, spectators, administrators, teachers and the media when involved in any sporting activity delivered by the relevant organisation.

The “Codes of Behaviour Guidance” has been produced for consideration by all providers including voluntary, private and public sector organisations that do not have current agreed codes of behaviour in place covering the actions of people representing their organisation, accessing activities provided through their organisation or reporting the activities of the organisation.

The “Codes of Behaviour Guidance” should be used in conjunction with the “Codes of Behaviour - Sanction Guidance”.

Coaches - Code of Behaviour:

- Respect the rights and dignity of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Keep winning in context, always encourage and acknowledge attitude and effort even where winning is not the result.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.
- Ensure your coaching qualifications are kept up to date and you are aware of the latest coaching practices and statutory requirements related to coaching children including knowledge and understanding of the organisations welfare policies and procedures.

- Place the well-being and safety of the performer above all else.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the sports governing body and hold the appropriate insurance cover.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Ensure all activities are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
- Physical contact with participants should be avoided if you feel there is a reason for physical contact you must gain the consent of the young person. It is the young person's right to decline or refuse.
- Never ridicule a young player for making a mistake.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
- Encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance and promote the code of behaviour for participants.
- At the outset, clarify with performers (and where appropriate with their parents/carers) exactly what is expected of them and what performers are entitled to expect from the coach.
- Co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists) in the best interests of the performer.
- Always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- Consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance, set a good example which others can follow.
- Arrive in plenty of time to set up the activity.

Officials (referees/umpires etc) - Code of Behaviour:

- Respect the rights and dignity of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.

- Modify rules and regulations, where appropriate, to match the skill levels and needs of the young people taking part.
- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent and objective when making decisions.
- Promote respect amongst participants and other adults involved in sport and competition.
- Always emphasise the spirit of the game.
- Encourage and promote rule changes, where appropriate, that will make participation more enjoyable for the participants.
- Keep up to date with the latest developments in officiating and safeguarding children in sport.
- Your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive including where highlighting poor practice or considering implementing sanctions for breach of codes of behaviour e.g. related to the actions of coaches or participants.