



**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FOR THE SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING**

**OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

**COACHES'**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Coaches' Code of Conduct applies to all Coaches' in badminton at all levels of the sport.

**2. Why this is important**

2.1 A Code of Conduct has a number of important functions. It:

- Sets out what behaviour is acceptable and unacceptable.
- Defines standards of practice expected from those to whom it applies.
- Forms the basis for challenging and improving practice.
- Helps to safeguard staff by encouraging them to adhere to agreed standards of practice.
- Sets out for children and parents the standards of practice which they and the organisation should expect from those who work/volunteer with children.

1.2 Badminton Scotland supports and requires ***all*** coaches to observe the following standards of practice, including verbal and non-verbal actions when in involved in activities with children.

2.3 All concerns about breach of this Code of Conduct will be taken seriously and responded to in line with Badminton Scotland's Disciplinary Procedure and Procedure for Responding to Concerns

**2. Good Practice**

- Make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play.
- Treat all children equally, with respect, dignity and fairness.
- Involve parents/carers wherever possible.
- Build balanced relationships based on mutual trust that empower and include children in the decision-making process.
- Always work in an open environment. Avoid private or unobserved situations.
- Put the welfare of each child first before winning or achieving performance goals.
- Be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.

- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and avoid excessive training and competition, pushing them against their will and putting undue pressure on them.
- Listen, respect and maintain confidentiality when a child/young player discusses something of a personal nature with you – unless it is a report of abuse/poor practice and action must be taken and incidents reported.

### **3. Practice to be Avoided**

3.1 In your role within Badminton Scotland, the following practice should be avoided:

- Having 'favourites' – this could lead to resentment and jealousy by other children and could be misinterpreted by others.
- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
- Entering children's bedrooms on trips away from home, unless in an emergency situation or in the interest of health and safety. If it is necessary to enter rooms, alert the occupants by knocking and announcing your intention to enter. The door should remain open, if appropriate.
- Where possible, doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

### **4. Unacceptable Practice**

4.1 In the context of your role within Badminton Scotland, the following practices are considered unacceptable:

- Engaging in sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Engaging in rough or physical contact except as permitted within the rules of the game or competition.
- Forming intimate emotional, physical or sexual relationships with children.
- Allowing or engaging in touching a child in a sexually suggestive manner.
- Allowing children to swear or use sexualised language unchallenged.
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reducing a child to tears as a form of control.
- Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Inviting or allowing children to stay with you at your home.
- Coaches and other leaders sharing a room alone with a child for sleeping accommodation.
- Never encourage rough or physical contact out with the rules of the game.

### **5. The Use of Social Media Sites**

5.1 Badminton Scotland coaches are in a position of trust and/or responsibility should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites if they hold a position in respect of that individual young person.

5.2 Should a young person in your session request to become a named friend on your Social Networking page or request that you become a named friend on the young person's Social Networking Page, you should decline if any of the following apply:

- You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that young person
- You hold a position of trust and responsibility in the club or organisation
- Your contact with the child is through a Badminton Scotland activity and the parent/guardian does not give their consent to such contact.

## 6. Contact Information

6.1 If you require further information or advice you are advised to contact a Badminton Scotland Child Welfare & Protection Officer: Rita Yuan Gao or Nicky Waterson.

- Telephone: 07398121009, Email: [nicky@badmintonscotland.org.uk](mailto:nicky@badmintonscotland.org.uk)
- Telephone: 07935601743, Email: [rita@badmintonscotland.org.uk](mailto:rita@badmintonscotland.org.uk)

**PLEASE RETURN ONE COPY AND KEEP ONE COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

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| I have read and agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct. I have also read and agree to abide by the Badminton Scotland Protecting Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults Policy, procedures and guidelines. |  |
| Name:   |  |
| Signature:  |  |
| Date:   |  |