



Eastside Rapids
Coach Code of Conduct
January 2020

CODES OF CONDUCT

A code of conduct for working with children is used to make clear:

- what behaviour is acceptable and unacceptable
- the standards of practise expected when working on behalf of the club
- the basis for challenging and improving practise

Everyone working with children on behalf of your club should sign up to your club's code of conduct. Members of the sports volunteers/staff must be clear about the expectations on them when involved in activities with children. Children and the parents/carers involved in activities should also be clear about what they can expect from the adults working with them. The club's code of conduct is most useful if shared publicly and widely.

The sports volunteers/staff, children and parents/carers support and understand codes of conduct best when they are involved in drawing them up and have the opportunity to discuss regularly what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Concerns about breach of the code of conduct should be taken seriously and responded to in line with the complaints policy, performance management policy, disciplinary procedure and/or procedures for responding to concerns.

Code of conduct for parents/carers and children

Children and their parents/carers should also be clear about the expectations placed upon them.

It can be very beneficial to ask children as a group to discuss this in their group/team and to agree what the consequences of breaking these rules should be. This could be done at the start of a season, before a trip away from home, or as part of a welcome session at a residential camp.

Good spectator behaviour is important

Pressure on children and the bad behaviour of adults on the side-line can make children drop out of sport. Clubs should promote good side-line behaviour and make it clear that if children or officials are abused, action will be taken.

Further guidance and support is available from your Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer, Susan Thomson.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN AT EASTSIDE RAPIDS

Good Practice

- Remember you are a role model – be welcoming, positive, encouraging and respectful
- Make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play
- Implement [Name of Club] Good Practice Guidelines
- Treat all children equally, with respect, dignity and fairness
- Involve parents/carers wherever possible
- Build balanced relationships based on mutual trust
- Include children in the decision-making process whenever possible
- Work with children in a public place, wherever possible
- Put the wellbeing of each child first before winning or achieving performance goals
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children
- Challenge instances of poor practise, abuse or bullying

Unacceptable Practice

- Putting excessive pressure on children, pushing children against their will
- Giving only negative feedback
- Unequal treatment that could lead to resentment, jealousy or misinterpretation
- Spending a lot of time alone with children away from others
- Assisting with bathing or dressing tasks that children can do for themselves
- Smoking, drinking alcohol, misuse of illegal substances or the use of foul or offensive language
- Taking photographs without the appropriate consent
- Unofficial communication with a child through telephone or social media
- Allowing allegations or observations of bullying or abuse to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted on
- Failing to pass on a disclosure from a child about potential abuse
- Rough physical contact or games between adults and children
- Forming intimate emotional, physical or sexual relationships with children
- Touching a child in a sexually suggestive way, playing sexually provocative games or making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Allowing the use of swearing, sexualised, racist or homophobic language by staff/volunteers or children
- Threatening, coercing or bullying a child or deliberately reducing a child to tears as a form of control
- Inviting or allowing children to stay with you at your home or sharing a bedroom alone with a child

I have read and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. I have also read and agree to abide by the Child Wellbeing & Protection Policy, Procedures and Guidelines.

Name of staff member/volunteers:_____

Date signed:_____

Witnessed by:_____

(Club Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer/delegated staff member)

Date signed:_____

