



Behaviour Guidance Policy

In addition to the delivery of quality sports opportunities, all people involved in sport should aim to create an environment that promotes a culture of dignity and respect for others, focusing on young people's wellbeing, their group involvement and participation, personal responsibility and cooperation.

To help facilitate this aim, behavioural guidelines and consequences of unacceptable behaviour should be discussed between coaching staff and participants at regular intervals to reinforce key messages on what is acceptable and expected. It is essential that mutual respect between coaching staff and participants is established early so that the participants are positively motivated to behave appropriately.

If participants are unable to follow the behaviour expectations outlined, coaching staff could approach the situation in the following way ensuring that they deal with the situation sensitively and fairly:

- Intervene at the time of conflict in order to establish the cause of the upset;
- Use positive verbal directions and simply explain expectations, giving enough time for the participants to comply;
- Talk to the participants involved to gauge their feelings and reactions to the situation;
- Assure the participants that it is their behaviour which is unacceptable and not them as individuals;
- Reconfirm action should the unacceptable behaviour arise again;
- Give praise freely to participants as positive changes in behaviour occur.

If the above has been tried consistently and there is further need for improvement of behaviour, the following guidelines could be employed:

- The relevant participant should be removed from the situation for a 'cooling off' period for five minutes, outside the perimeters of the activity and where possible in the company of another adult;
- The participant should be encouraged to reflect on the situation;
- Behaviour guidelines and reason for removal should be reaffirmed;
- Parents/carers should be informed at the end of the session, where possible.

If a young person's behaviour is continually disruptive or causes discomfort to other participants, staff should complete an Accident/Incident Report Form. The parents/carers of the child should be contacted regarding the incidences and possible immediate or future exclusion.

In the event that, despite the sincere efforts of staff and parents, a participant continues to behave inappropriately, is destroying equipment or disrupting the activities for other participants, it may be concluded that the club/session is not able to accommodate this form of behaviour and hence the participant should be excluded from future sessions. A discussion between the club/coaches and parents should be undertaken to discuss the participants exclusion. A report of this discussion should be documented and signed by both club/coach and parents.