

## **Sports Leaders Code of Conduct**

Leaders should familiarise themselves with the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport* and in particular with the *Hockey Ireland Code of Ethics* and follow the procedures if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse of any sort. Leaders should read below and agree to abide by these terms.

### **Leaders should:**

- Be positive during sessions and competitions, praise and encourage effort as well as results.
- Put welfare of young person first, strike a balance between this and winning/results.
- Encourage fair play and treat participants equally.
- Recognise developmental needs, ensuring activities are appropriate for the individual.
- Plan and prepare appropriately.
- Anyone working with children must do the child protection awareness course and hold up-to-date qualifications and be committed to the values and guidelines of the HI.
- Involve parents where possible and inform parents when problems arise.
- Keep a record of attendance at training and competitions.
- Remove injured players from the field, particularly if there is a head injury and seek appropriate medical attention. Be aware of the real danger of concussion.
- Keep a record of injury(s) and action taken on an Accident Report Form.
- Keep a record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise.
- Report any concerns in accordance with this Code's reporting procedures.
- Encourage young people to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals for their worth regardless of their level of play.
- Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationships and avoid any sexual intimacy with young people that could develop as a result.
- Actively discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs, the use of alcohol and tobacco and any illegal substance.
- Encourage Players and other Coaches and Parents to develop and maintain the core values of the game, respect, inclusivity and integrity in their relationships with others.
- Communicate with all team members and their Parents/Guardians with the same texts, emails etc. and avoid direct communication to any one young player.
- Contact the Children's Officer Shirley Moore, (087) 2307450 if you have any concerns.

### **Where possible Leaders should avoid:**

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others.
- Taking sessions alone.
- Taking children to their home.
- Taking children on journeys alone in their car.

### **Sports Leaders should not:**

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child.
- 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. This includes innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms.
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult and permission of the parent(s).
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children.
- Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your players.

- Never communicate or form a “friendship” with children online with the intent of arranging to meet in the “real world”.
- Never ask anyone to keep secrets of any kind.

**Please read and keep this copy for further reference. Each season you will be asked to sign that you agree to abide by the rules and procedures of Hockey and in particular the Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Young Players for Waterford Hockey Club.**

**Self-Declaration**

*(Please tick ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ where appropriate)*

Do you agree to abide by the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics for Hockey for Young People’s Code of Conduct?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree to abide by the rules of Waterford Hockey Club?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been asked to leave a sporting organisation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you have answered yes, we will contact you in confidence)*

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Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution; a Bound Over Order; or are you at present the subject of criminal investigations?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you have answered yes, we will contact you in confidence)*

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I agree to inform the Waterford Hockey Club Designated Liaison Person should I be subjected to any criminal proceedings or statutory investigation that may bring Hockey Ireland into disrepute.

**Signed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_