

Policy on Code of Ethics and Good Practice

For

Sport for Young People

In

Coláiste Bride

The guidelines in this Policy are based on the national guidelines as outlined in the following documents.

Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Irish Sports Council, 2000

Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children,
Dept. of Health & Children 1999

Our Duty to Care, Dept. of Health & Children 2002

Code of Conduct for young people

Coláiste Bride wishes to provide the best possible environment for young people involved in sport. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. These participants have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities that they must accept. Young people should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and sports leaders with fairness and respect.

Young Players are entitled to:

- Be safe and to feel safe
- Be listened to
- Be believed
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Have a voice
- Participate on an equal basis
- Have fun and enjoy sport
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Make complaints and have them dealt with
- Get help against bullies
- Say no
- Confidentiality

Young Players should always:

- Treat Sports Leaders with respect
- Play fairly at all times,
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- Respect opponents and be gracious in defeat
- Abide by the rules set down by team managers when travelling to away events.
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the sport into disrepute
- Talk to teacher

Young players should never:

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- Shout or argue with officials, team mates or opponents
- Harm team members, opponents or their property
- Bully or use bullying tactics to gain advantage
- Take banned substances

- Keep secrets, especially if they have been caused harm
- Tell lies about adults/young people
- Spread rumours

Guidelines for Parents

Coláiste Bride believes that parents should.....

Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, with officials and organisers

Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect the game/player.

Never intentionally expose any young participants to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks.

Always recognise the value and importance of the teachers who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for your child. Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of referees, coaches or organisers. Respect referees, teachers, organisers and other players.

Encourage your child to play by the rules. Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship. Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides. Encourage mutual respect for team-mates and opponents.

Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms.

Parents code of conduct:

1. I will respect the rules and procedures as set down in Coláiste Bride and in this policy document, Code of Ethics for Children in Sport.
2. I will respect my child's team-mates, teachers and parents, as well as players, parents and teachers from opposing teams. I will encourage my child to treat other participants, teachers, selectors and managers with respect.
3. I will respect my child's teacher(s) and support his/her effort.
4. I will respect the officials and their authority during matches and all sporting events.
5. I will never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language.

Name: _____ Name of child(ren) _____

Date: _____

Guidelines for Teachers:

Teachers in children's sport should strive to create a positive environment for the children in their care. They have an overall responsibility to take the steps necessary to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided.

Coláiste Bride recognises the key role teachers play in the lives of children in sport.

All teachers have as their first priority the children's safety and enjoyment of the sport.

Teachers must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.

The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must be actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.

Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a game. All young players are entitled to respect.

Be careful to avoid a "star system". Each child deserves equal time and attention.

Care must be taken not to expose a child intentionally or unintentionally to embarrassment or disparagement by use of sarcastic or flippant remarks about the child or her family.

Physical punishment or physical force must never be used. Never punish a mistake – by verbal means, physical means, or exclusion.

Insist that players in your care respect the rules of the game. Insist on fair play and ensure players are aware you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.

Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill development and personal satisfaction have priority over highly structured competition. Never make winning the only objective.

Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other coaches and avoid criticism of fellow coaches.

Leaders should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their players' medical or related problems. Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature if you are not qualified to do so. Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information.

Set realistic goals for the participants and do not push young players. Create a safe and enjoyable environment.

Leader's Code of Conduct:

Leaders should be

Positive during session; praise and encourage effort as well as results

Plan and prepare appropriately

Put welfare of young person first, strike a balance between this and winning / results

Encourage fair play, treat participants equally

Recognise development needs

Keep record of attendance at training

Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken

Keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise

I have read and agree to abide by the above guidelines

_____ (signed) _____ (date)