



Muckross Hockey Club Code of Conduct for Sports Leaders

All sports leaders involved in Muckross Hockey Club should familiarise themselves with the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport and in particular with the IHA Code of Ethics and LHA implementation of the Code of Ethics and follow the procedures if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse of any sort.

Sports leaders occupy a position of trust, power, and influence, and they have a responsibility to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided. Leaders should read below and agree to abide by these terms.

Anyone working with children should attend the Irish Sports Council Code of Ethics basic awareness course and hold up-to-date qualifications and be committed to the values and guidelines of the Leinster Hockey Association and Muckross Hockey Club.

All sports leaders are required to complete and submit a Garda Vetting form.

I will

- 1) Be positive during sessions and competitions, praise and encourage effort as well as results.
- 2) Put welfare of young person first, strike a balance between this and winning / results.
- 3) Encourage fair play and treat participants equally.
- 4) Recognise developmental needs, ensuring activities are appropriate for the individual.
- 5) Plan and prepare appropriately.
- 6) Involve parents where possible and inform parents or responsible persons when problems arise
- 7) Keep a record of attendance at training and competitions.
- 8) Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken.
- 9) Keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise and inform the Children's Officer.
- 10) Report any concerns in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Hockey for Young People's reporting procedures.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Be acutely aware of the power that I as a coach develop with the players in the coaching relationships and avoid any sexual intimacy with young people that could develop as a result.
- 13) Actively discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs, the use of alcohol and tobacco and any illegal substance.
- 14) Encourage young people and other coaches to develop and maintain integrity in their relationship with others.

Where possible I should avoid:

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

I will not:

- 1) Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child.
- 2) Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain a benefit or reward for themselves or any organisation they are involved with.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult and permission of the parent(s)/guardian.
- 5) Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children.
- 6) Exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of the players.
- 7) Communicate or form a “friendship” with children online with the intent of arranging to meet in the “real world”.
- 8) Befriend a young player on a social networking site.
- 9) Post any comments on email, phone messages, websites, social media or twitter that are upsetting for young people.
- 10) Ask anyone to keep secrets of any kind.
- 11) Add as a friend, on Facebook or similar social media, any children I am involved with in my role as their sports leader

Sports Leaders should be aware of the following guidelines regarding the use of mobile phones:

- 1) Group texts should be used for communication among players and teams and parents should be informed of this at the start of the season.
- 2) It is not appropriate to have constant communication for individual players.
- 3) Mobile phones should not be used in certain locations; inappropriate use of a camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. in changing rooms.

I agree to abide by the rules and procedures of Hockey and in particular the Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Sports Leaders.

Name (in print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____