



Rathcormac FC Code of Conduct - Coaches/Volunteers

Coaches are key to the establishment of good practices in football. Their attitude to the game directly informs the attitude of the players under their supervision. Coaches and volunteers will create a positive football environment by displaying exemplary behaviour and implementing practices that make football a safe, fun and positive experience for all children and young people who participate in football.

Coaches and volunteers have a responsibility to ensure their conduct does not compromise the welfare of a child or young person, or bring the sport or their club into disrepute. Any behaviour which compromises this ethos may result in disciplinary action.

As a coach / volunteer I will:

- show respect to everyone involved in the game (i.e. coaches, players, match officials and spectators).
- be an excellent role model and display exemplary behaviour at all times. And never use offensive, insulting, abusive or inappropriate language.
- only develop open, honest, professional and respectful relationships with children and young people.
- promote the positive aspects of football and never condone rule-violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- clarify with the players (and where the players are under the age of 18, their parents) at the start of the season exactly what is expected of them and also what they are to expect from the Mentor.
- not equate success purely with results / winning, or equate losing with failure.

- respect decisions made by match officials and never publicly criticise their decisions.
- never enter the field of play without permission from the referee.

When coaching/volunteering children and young people I will:

- always put the welfare of children and young people before winning or achieving goals
- work in an open environment and avoid spending time alone with children and young people away from others
- make them feel safe and ensure that coaching and volunteer ratios are appropriate to the needs of the group
- make football a fun experience
- communicate in a constructive, effective and age-appropriate manner
- be positive by giving constructive feedback, praising efforts and encouraging achievements
- recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and young people, including those with a disability, avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing any child against their will
- carry out a risk assessment and ensure that the equipment and environment used for every club activity is safe
- keep a written record, and inform senior coach and parent of the young person, of any injury that occurs, including details of any treatment given
- never engage in bullying behaviour
- challenge any form of bullying behaviour and report it to club Welfare Officer and parent of the young person
- avoid spending any time alone with children or young people away from others.

The following actions will never be sanctioned. I will never:

- engage in inappropriate use of social media – this includes never posting comments on social media sites that compromise the welfare of a child or young person, cause them harm, or bring the club or sport into disrepute
- reduce a child or young person to tears as a form of control
- encourage or bully a child or young person into playing while injured
- show favoritism
- allow allegations made by a child or young person to go unrecorded or not acted upon.
- remain in the changing room while players are showering or changing. This applies to all coaches and volunteers who are working with children and young people that are the opposite gender to themselves.

Rathcormac FC requires adherence to all Codes of Conduct and will take appropriate action if any person is deemed to be in breach of a code as set out in this policy.