

# Donegal Town Basketball Club Code of Conduct for Coaches & Volunteers

DONEGAL TOWN BASKETBALL CLUB is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents/guardians associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of Donegal Town Basketball Club.

Donegal Town Basketball Club offers a positive experience where members can learn new things in a safe and positive environment.

As a Coach / Volunteer Donegal Town Basketball Club, you should familiarize yourselves with following guidelines:

- Ensure the safety of all children by careful supervision, proper pre-planning of coaching sessions, using safe methods at all times.
- Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behavior.
- Treat all young people equally and ensure they feel valued. Have no favorites.
- Encourage all children not to discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social classes or lack of ability.
- Not allow any rough or dangerous play, bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behavior.
- Appreciate the efforts of all young people and not over-train the young people. Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of the Club at all times.
- Not let any allegations of abuse of any kind to go unchallenged or unrecorded if appropriate. Incidents and accidents to be recorded in the Club incident/accident book. Parents/guardians will be informed.
- Report accidents or incidents of alleged abuse or poor practice to the designated person.
- Administer minor first aid in the presence of others and where required refer more serious incidents to the Club "first aider".
- Have access to telephone for immediate contact to emergency services if required.
- Foster team work to ensure the safety of youth members in their care.
- Ensure the rights and responsibilities of youth members are enforced.
- Report suspected abuse to the appropriate designated Safeguarding Children's Officer.
- Not abuse members physically, emotionally or sexually.
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information. Please note the reporting of information relating to the safeguarding of a young person through the Donegal Town Basketball Club reporting procedures is not a breach of confidentiality
- Respect and listen to the opinions of young people.
- Take time to explain coaching techniques to ensure they are clearly understood.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Ensure they maintain healthy, positive and professional relationships with all athletes, coaches and others in a position of authority and trust in relation to athletes aged 16 and 17 years must not engage in sexual relationships with them while that unequal power relationship exists.
- Be a role model, displaying consistently high standard of behavior and appearance (disciplined/committed/time keeping), remember children learn by example.
- Refrain from smoking and consumption of alcohol and drugs during club activities or coaching sessions.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.
- Protect themselves from false accusation:
- Not spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others

- Never taking children to their home
- Not administering First Aid involving the removing of children's clothing unless in the presence of others
- Hold appropriate valid qualifications.
- Coaches and other Club officers should be aware of the possible implications of accepting junior club members on their own personal media site or sharing their own site details with them. It is important for coaches and club officers to ensure that their interactions and communications with your members in real life and via social media reflects their role and position of responsibility of that young person.
- Coaches should only use electronic based communications to share sport, activity and club related information with club members and avoid personal non-sport messages, photographs, videos or banter.
- Make the sport/activity **fun**.

#### **COACHES/VOLUNTEERS HAVE A RIGHT TO:**

- Access ongoing training and information on all aspects of leading/managing activities for youths, particularly on Safeguarding.
- Support in the reporting of suspected abuse.
- Access to professional support services.
- Fair and equitable treatment by the governing body/Donegal Town Basketball Club.
- Be protected from abuse by children/youths, other adult members and parents.
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with children.

Any misdemeanors and general misbehavior will be dealt with immediately and reported verbally to the Grievance & Disciplinary Committee. Persistent breach of the code will result in dismissal from Donegal Town Basketball Club.

Dismissals can be appealed by the coach/volunteer in line with Donegal Town Basketball Club's Grievance and Disciplinary Policy or referred to Basketball Ireland.

#### **EMERGENCY ACTION/FIRST AID**

All coaches, leaders and members should be prepared with an action plan in the event of an emergency and be aware of our First Aid Procedures.

This will include:

- Access to First Aid equipment. A First Aid Box is maintained in the Basketball Club hut outside the main entrance to the Abbey Vocational Gym. All Coaches should carry their portable first aid kits with them on match days & to training events outside of the Abbey Gym. Please report any items which need replacement to the Club's Chairperson or Secretary
- All accidents / incidents to be reported in writing to the Club Secretary.
- Coaches should maintain telephone contact details for minors in their care.
- Telephone contact to the Emergency Services

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**Signature of Coach/Volunteer:**

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**Printed name of Coach/Volunteer:**

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**Date:**