Tees Valley Sport "Codes of Behaviour Guidance"

Participants, Parents, Coaches, Officials, Spectators, Administrators, Teachers, Media

Tees Valley Sport has proposed the following guidance as a result of its commitment to the safeguarding of children in sport and in accordance with National Standards for Safeguarding Children in Sport produced by the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit.

The basic principle underpinning this guidance is respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals and as such the guidance should be used in direct association with Tees Valley Sport's Equity Policy.

The "Codes of Behaviour Guidance" provides recommendations and good practice advice to providers of sport concerning codes of behaviour for participants, parents, coaches, officials, spectators, administrators, teachers and the media when involved in any sporting activity delivered by the relevant organisation.

The "Codes of Behaviour Guidance" has been produced for consideration by all providers including voluntary, private and public sector organisations that do not have current agreed codes of behaviour in place covering the actions of people representing their organisation, accessing activities provided through their organisation or reporting the activities of the organisation.

The "Codes of Behaviour Guidance" should be used in conjunction with the "Codes of Behaviour - Sanction Guidance".

Participants - Code of Behaviour:

• Always play by the rules.

• Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.

• Control your temper. Do not use foul or abusive language. Verbal and physical abuse is not acceptable in life and in sport.

• Work equally hard for yourself and your team.

• Treat all participants in your sport as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor including singling people out based on performance or appearance.

• Show respect for your coach, manager, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.

• Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please your parents and coaches.

• Do not leave the playing/training venue unless the coach or manager is aware.

• It is your responsibility to always be on time and prepared for all activities.

• Take time to thank all those who help you take part in your chosen sport/activity.

Parents/Guardians - Code of Behaviour:

• Respect the rights and dignity of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

• Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.

• Encourage young people to participate, never force them.

• Focus on, and praise the effort and performance displayed, rather than the winning or losing.

• Encourage young people to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to argumentative behaviour.

• Never ridicule a young person for making a mistake or losing a competition.

• Remember that young people learn best by example. Always show appreciation for good performances displayed by all participants.

• Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all sporting activities.

• Respect coaches' and officials' decisions and teach young people to do likewise.

• Always show appreciation for the coaches, officials and administrators. Without them there would be no activity for your child to participate in.

• Always ensure you are punctual when dropping off and collecting your children, do not put the coach/club in a difficult position by arriving late.

Coaches - Code of Behaviour:

• Respect the rights and dignity of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

• Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.

• Keep winning in context, always encourage and acknowledge attitude and effort even where winning is not the result.

• Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.

• Ensure your coaching qualifications are kept up to date and you are aware of the latest coaching practices and statutory requirements related to coaching children including knowledge and understanding of the organisations welfare policies and procedures.

• Place the well-being and safety of the performer above all else.

• Follow all guidelines laid down by the sports governing body and hold the appropriate insurance cover.

• Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.

• Ensure all activities are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.

• Physical contact with participants should be avoided if you feel there is a reason for physical contact you must gain the consent of the young person. It is the young person's right to decline or refuse.

• Never ridicule a young player for making a mistake.

• Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.

• Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.

• Encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance and promote the code of behaviour for participants.

• At the outset, clarify with performers (and where appropriate with their parents/carers) exactly what is expected of them and what performers are entitled to expect from the coach.

• Co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists) in the best interests of the performer.

• Always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.

• Consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance, set a good example which others can follow.

• Arrive in plenty of time to set up the activity.

Officials (referees/umpires etc) - Code of Behaviour:

• Respect the rights and dignity of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

• Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.

• Modify rules and regulations, where appropriate, to match the skill levels and needs of the young people taking part.

• Compliment and encourage all participants.

• Be consistent and objective when making decisions.

• Promote respect amongst participants and other adults involved in sport and competition.

• Always emphasise the spirit of the game.

• Encourage and promote rule changes, where appropriate, that will make participation more enjoyable for the participants.

• Keep up to date with the latest developments in officiating and safeguarding children in sport.

• Your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive including where highlighting poor practice or considering implementing sanctions for breach of codes of behaviour e.g. related to the actions of coaches or participants.

Spectators - Code of Behaviour:

• Respect the rights and dignity of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

• Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.

• Acknowledge effort and positive attitudes from all individuals and teams not just the winners.

• Never ridicule a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are always motivational.

• Congratulate all participants on their effort, regardless of the game's outcome.

• Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.

• Condemn the use of violence, abusive language or behaviour in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.

• Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.

• Encourage all players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.

• Do not use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials.

• Do not attend games under the influence of alcohol.

Administrators (Sports Development Officers etc) - Code of Behaviour:

• Respect the rights and dignity of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

• Stay up to date with legislation and recommended procedures for safeguarding children in sport including the welfare policies and procedures of the club/organisation.

• Ensure all adults are aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding the welfare of children that are involved in activities provided by the organisation.

• Involve young people in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activities of the organisation including developing and communicating about safeguarding.

• Give all young people equal opportunities to participate.

• Create opportunities for young people to participate in sport, not just as a player but as a coach, referee, administrator, etc.

• Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.

• Ensure provision of quality supervision and instruction for junior players including clarifying minimum standards and job roles with coaches and volunteers, participants and parents.

• Encourage and promote a focus on effort and improvement rather than winning in work with children and young performers.

• Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating including support for training and development where possible.

• Promote “Codes of Behaviour” to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players and the media where appropriate, and encourage there use.

• In all aspects your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.

Teachers - Code of Behaviour:

• Respect the rights and dignity of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

• Encourage young people to develop basic skills in a variety of sports and discourage overspecialisation in one event, sport or playing position at the expense of other sports and activities.

• Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour as well as basic skills.

• Give priority to free play activities, skill learning and modified sports over highly structured competition for primary school aged children.

• Prepare young people for competition by teaching them basic sport skills.

• Make young people aware of the positive benefits of participation in sporting activities.

• Keep up to date with coaching practices and the principles of physical growth and development. Read and use the latest coaching and teaching resources for junior sport.

• Help young people understand the differences between the junior competition they participate in and professional sport.

• Help young people understand that playing by the rules is their responsibility.

• Give all young people equal opportunities to participate in leadership, administration, coaching and refereeing as well as playing.

Media - Code of Behaviour:

• Respect the rights and dignity of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

• Display images, names and other information about young people responsibly so as not to endanger individuals safety including gaining consent for use of photographs/digital images.

• Provide coverage of young people’s competitive and non-competitive sport as well as reporting adult sport.

• Be aware of the differences among adult sport, professional sport and modified sports programs for young people.

• Do not highlight isolated incidents of inappropriate sporting behaviour.

• Focus on a young player’s fair play and honest effort.

• Do not place unfair expectations on young people.

• Describe and report on the problems/barriers to young people participating in organised sport.

• Focus on the abilities and not the disabilities of young people.

• Avoid reinforcing stereotypical views on the involvement of boys and girls in particular sports.

• Give equal time and space to reporting boys and girls sports.