



# Boyne Hockey Club

## Code of Conduct for Sports Leaders

Boyne Hockey Club wishes to provide the best possible environment for all people involved in the sport of hockey. All players, coaches and club officers 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. All players should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and sports leaders with fairness and respect.

Our Codes of Conduct assist Boyne Hockey Club in establishing a family and child friendly environment centred on the enjoyment of hockey. This Code of Conduct describes the minimum standards of behaviour expected of our coaches, volunteers and club officers.

Sports Leaders should familiarise themselves with the BHC Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport and in particular with the IHA Code of Ethics and follow the procedures if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse of any sort. Leaders should read below and agree to abide by these terms.

### **Sports Leaders should:**

- Be positive during sessions and competitions, praise and encourage effort as well as results
- Put welfare of young person first, strike a balance between this and winning / results
- Encourage fair play and treat participants equally
- Recognise developmental needs, ensuring activities are appropriate for the individual
- Plan and prepare appropriately
- Anyone working with young people must do the Code of Ethics Awareness Course and Child Protection awareness course and hold up-to-date qualifications and be committed to the values and guidelines of Hockey Ireland.
- Involve parents where possible and inform parents when problems arise
- Keep a record of attendance at training and competitions
- Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken
- Keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise
- Report any concerns in accordance with this Code's reporting procedures
- Encourage young people to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of play.
- Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationships and avoid any sexual intimacy with players that could develop as a result.
- Actively discourage the use of performance- enhancing drugs, the use of alcohol and tobacco and any illegal substance.
- Encourage young people and coaches to develop and maintain integrity in their relationships.
- Follow all guidelines and requirements for the prevention of spread of COVID-19. Refer to specific COVID Return to Play protocol for Coaches & Supervisors.

### **Where possible Sports Leaders should avoid:**

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others
- Taking sessions alone
- Taking children to their home or on journeys alone in their car.
- Taking children to the toilet. Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> class should be accompanied to toilets by their parents. For older players, a child is not permitted to leave the pitch alone. If necessary, players

may visit the toilet in groups of three.

**Sports Leaders should not:**

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward
- 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
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult and permission of the parent(s).
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children
- Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political, or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your young people.
- Never communicate or form a “friendship” with children online with the intent of arranging to meet them in the ‘real world’.
- Never ask anyone to keep secrets of any kind.

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

- Group texts/WhatsApp/etc. can be used for communication between coaches and players or parents / guardians (players under 18). Digital communication with young players is to be avoided.
- It is not appropriate to have constant communication for individual players.
- 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.

**Self-Declaration for New Sports Leaders**

Do you agree to abide by the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics for Hockey for Young People’s Code of Conduct?  Yes  No

Do you agree to abide by the rules of the IHA/Boyne HC?  Yes  No

Have you ever been asked to leave a sporting organisation?  Yes  No

*(If you have answered yes, we will contact you in confidence)*

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Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution; a Bound Over Order; or are you at present the subject of criminal investigations?  Yes  No

*(If you have answered yes, we will contact you in confidence)*

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I agree to inform the Boyne Hockey Club Designated Person should I be subjected to any criminal proceedings or statutory investigation that may bring the BHC into disrepute.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_