

BCU Policy Statement /

Code Of Ethics

The BCU want to ensure that children and adults are protected and kept safe from harm while they are with staff, coaches and/or volunteers. We do this by requiring all to operate under this general Sport and Recreation Code of Ethics.

Coaching, Teaching and Instructing

Even though these standards focus on and describe work functions, they are based on a number of accepted assumptions and values that underpin good practice in coaching, teaching and instructing. These have been articulated into a Code of Ethics, developed by the British Institute of Sports Coaches and it is incorporated in its entirety into this guide.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to establish and maintain standards for sports coaches and to inform and protect members of the public using their services.

Ethical standards comprise such values as integrity, responsibility, competence and confidentiality. Members of the BCU, in assenting to this Code, accept their responsibility to performers, colleagues, the BCU, and to society. In pursuit of these principles, sports coaches subscribe to standards in the following areas:

- 1 Issues of Responsibility
- 2 Issues of Competence

This code of ethics is a framework within which to work. It is a series of guidelines rather than a set of instructions.

1 Issues of Responsibility

Sports coaching is a deliberately undertaken responsibility, and sports coaches are responsible for the observation of the principles embodied in this Code of Ethics.

Humanity

- 1.1 Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination. Specifically, coaches must treat everyone equally, within the context of their activity, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or political persuasion.

Relationships

- 1.2 The good sports coach will be concerned primarily with the well being, health and future of the individual participant and only secondarily with the optimisation of performance.
- 1.3 A key element in a coaching relationship is the development of independence. Participants must be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance in training/participation, in competition, and in their social life.
- 1.4 Sports coaches are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with their participants. This is particularly important when the coach and participant are of the opposite sex and/or when a participant is a young person. The coach must realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted, not only by the participant, but also by outsiders motivated by jealousy, dislike or mistrust, and could lead to allegations of sexual misconduct or impropriety.
- 1.5 The relationship between sports coach and participant relies heavily on mutual trust and respect. In detail this means that the participant should be made aware of the coach's qualifications and experience and must be given the opportunity to consent to or decline proposals for training and performance.



Commitment

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- 1.6 Sports coaches should clarify in advance with participants and/or employers the number of sessions fees (if any) and method of payment. They should also explore with participants and/or employers the expectation of the outcome(s) of coaching.
- 1.7 Sports coaches have a responsibility to declare to their participants and/or employers any other current coaching commitments. Sports coaches should also find out if any prospective client is currently receiving guidance from another teacher/coach. If so, that teacher/coach should be contacted to discuss the situation.
- 1.8 Sports coaches who become aware of a conflict between their obligation to their participants and their obligation to the BCU or other organisation employing them must make explicit the nature of the conflict, and the loyalties and responsibilities involved, to all parties concerned.

Co-operation

- 1.9 Sports coaches should communicate and co-operate with other sports and allied professions in the best interests of their participants. An example of such contact would be the seeking of educational and career advise/counselling for young paddlers whose training impinges or is likely to impinge, upon the performance of their studies.
- 1.10 Sports coaches must communicate and co-operate with registered medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their participant's medical and psychological problems.

Advertising

- 1.11 Advertising by sports coaches in respect of qualifications and or services shall be accurate and professionally restrained.
- 1.12 Sports coaches shall not display any affiliation with an organisation in a manner that falsely implies sponsorship or accreditation by that organisation.

Integrity

- 1.13 Sports coaches should refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches. Differences of opinion should be dealt with on a personal basis and more serious disputes should be referred to the BCU.
- 1.14 Sports coaches must not encourage participants to violate the rules of their sport and should actively seek to discourage such action. Furthermore coaches should encourage participants to obey the spirit of such rules.
- 1.15 Sports coaches must not compromise their performers by advocating measures, which could be deemed to constitute seeking to gain an unfair advantage. Above all, coaches must never advocate the use of prescribed drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.
- 1.16 Sports coaches must treat opponents and officials with due respect both in victory and defeat and should encourage their participants to act in a similar manner.
- 1.17 Sports coaches must accept responsibility for the conduct of their participants insofar as they will undertake to discourage inappropriate behaviour.

Confidentiality

- 1.18 Sports coaches inevitably gather a great deal of personal information about participants in the course of a working relationship. Coach and participant must reach agreement as to what is to be regarded as confidential information, i.e. not divulged to a third party without the express approval of the participant.
- 1.19 Confidentiality does not preclude the disclosure of information, to persons who can be judged to have a "Right to Know", relating to participants when relevant to the following:
- Evaluation of the participant within the sport for competitive selection purposes.
 - Recommendations concerning participants for professional purposes.
 - Pursuit of disciplinary action involving participants within the sport.
 - Pursuit of disciplinary action by the BCU involving fellow coaches in alleged breaches of this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Abuse of privilege

- 1.20 The sports coach is privileged, on occasion, to have contact with participants and to travel and reside with participants in the course of coaching and competitive practise. A Coach must not attempt to exert undue influence over the participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.

Personal Standards

- 1.21 The sports coach must consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of coaching - to participants, other coaches, officials, spectators, the media and the general public.
- 1.22 Personal appearance is a matter of individual taste but the sports coach has an obligation to project an image of health, cleanliness, and functional efficiency.
- 1.23 The sports coach should never smoke when coaching.
- 1.24. Coaches should not drink alcohol so soon before coaching that the smell will still be on their breath when working.

Safety

- 1.25 Sports coaches have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the participants with whom they work as far as possible within the limits of their control.
- 1.26 All reasonable steps should be taken to establish a safe working environment.
- 1.27 The work done and the manner in which it is done should be in keeping with regular and approved BCU practises within the sport.
- 1.28 The activity being undertaken should be suitable for the age, experience and ability of the participants.
- 1.29 The participants should have been systematically prepared for the activity being undertaken and made aware of their personal responsibilities in terms of safety.

2 Issues of Competence

- 2..1 Sports coaches shall confine themselves to practise in those fields of sport in which they have been trained/educated, and which are recognised by the BCU to be valid. Valid areas of expertise are those directly concerned with coaching paddlesport. Training includes the accumulation of knowledge and skills through both formal coach education courses and by experience at a level of competence acceptable for independent coaching practice.
- 2.2 Sports coaches must be able to recognise and accept when to refer participants to other agencies. It is their responsibility, as far as possible, to verify the competence and integrity of the person to whom they refer a participant.
- 2.3 Sports coaches should regularly seek ways of increasing their professional development and self-awareness, particularly with regard to new BCU courses.
- 2.4 Sports coaches should welcome evaluation of their work by colleagues and be able to account to participants, employers, the BCU and other Governing Bodies and colleagues for their actions.
- 2.5 Sports coaches have a responsibility to themselves and their participants to maintain their own effectiveness, resilience and abilities, and to know when their personal resources are so depleted as to make it necessary for them to seek help and/or to withdraw from coaching, whether temporally or permanently.

