



Badminton Ireland

Code of Conduct

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1. Conduct Guidelines

The Badminton Ireland Code of Conduct is our leading policy on establishing acceptable standards of behaviour in our sport.

The code of conduct template outlines good practice procedures required of those participating in sport, regardless of what role they may play in doing so. It also aims to create an atmosphere of fairness, integrity, and respect among participants, coaches, athletes, officials, and supporters in sports.

It covers the behaviour of all involved before, during, and after the sport or training is conducted, no matter the sporting environment. Participants, Coaches, Supporters, Parents/Guardians, Referees/Officials, Clubs and other personnel should recognise the pivotal role that each and many others, play in the development of sport, and should always support one another when fulfilling their roles.

This code of conduct addresses the minimum levels of behaviour, conduct and good practice procedures.

Outlined within the code of conduct, are the following relevant roles:

- Participants
- Coaches
- Supporters
- Parents/Guardians
- Referees/Court Officials
- Clubs & Club Members

It also emphasises the role of parents/guardians and supporters in supporting the positive development of young participants and avoiding actions that can have a lasting emotional effect on them.

Therefore, we have to make every effort to ensure that we keep a balanced approach to competition, make sure all players get a chance to compete and strive to keep the fun in badminton.

2. Participants Responsibilities

Badminton Ireland recognises that the nature of the sport allows adults and juveniles to play with / against each other.

The following highlights what players should **NEVER** allow happen:

- 2.1 never argue with the coach or referee in public
- 2.2 never cheat
- 2.3 never use foul language especially in front of or to a juvenile
- 2.4 disrespect anyone on court with you
- 2.5 take photos of juveniles unless parental consent has been given
- 2.6 show aggressive behavior or threaten anyone
- 2.7 Use bullying tactics to gain an advantage or manipulate other players
- 2.8 Train or play if they feel unwell or are injured

Just like coaches and volunteers, young people have responsibilities to make the activity **fun** and **safe**. This means respecting the coaches' volunteers and other players who are there to help young people by:

- 2.9 sticking to the rules of the game
- 2.10 Not making insulting comments or swearing at the coach or other helpers and other club members.
- 2.11 being prepared and on time for sessions/training
- 2.12 doing their best at all times
- 2.13 giving their friends a second chance if they make a mistake
- 2.14 welcoming new members
- 2.15 Saying NO to bullying

Players should behave appropriately and should act in a manner which sets a good example to all involved within the club.

Players should:

2.16 respect their fellow players regardless of ability, cultural, or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religious beliefs

2.17 Take due care of Club Equipment and that of other players

2.18 Accept the decisions of referees and/or umpires

2.19 Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory

2.20 Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour in line with the Code of Conduct

2.21 Refrain from abusing or making disparaging comments online regarding an official, opponent or any other person involved in the running or organising of an event.

Young Players should know they can talk to their Safeguarding Officer with any concerns they may have about themselves or other players, and should be supported by a parent/guardian when doing so.

Adult-child relationships in sport must be:

- open, positive and encouraging
- entered into by choice
- defined by a mutually agreed set of goals and commitments
- respectful of the creativity and autonomy of children/young people
- carried out in a context where children/young people are protected and where their rights are promoted
- free from physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect or any threat of such harm
- respectful of the needs and developmental stage of the child
- aimed at the promotion of enjoyment and individual progress
- governed by a code of ethics and good practice in sport that is agreed and adhered to by all members of the sports club/organisation
- respectful, but not unquestioning of authority
- mindful of the fact that children with disabilities may be more vulnerable

3. Parents Responsibility

Badminton Ireland recognise the significance of parental behavior and how it can influence young players. Parents should be there to support the running of the club. As parents they should:

- 3.1 help out when asked – (once they are Garda Vetted, parents can help out on a regular basis)
- 3.2 be enthusiastic and cheer the young people on but not embarrass them
- 3.3 never argue with the coach or referee in public
- 3.4 never put undue pressure on their child
- 3.5 be realistic in their expectations
- 3.6 applaud the effort and performance rather than the result
- 3.7 encourage a balanced and healthy lifestyle for their child or children
- 3.8 drop their young person off and collect them on time
- 3.9 listen to any concerns the club may have and agree on any actions to improve the environment for the coaches, children and their child(ren).
- 3.10 make sure the young people have the correct kit/shoes/equipment
- 3.11 refrain from any negative or derogatory comments towards a child or coach online via e-mail or through social media
- 3.12 Approach the Safeguarding Officer within the affiliated body where there may be a child welfare concern or a practice which you are uncomfortable with
- 3.13 Ensure that coaches/sports leaders are made aware of any physical, intellectual, sensory or learning difficulties that their child may have in participating in Badminton.

Parents and young people should be provided with a copy of the guidelines contained within

this document about their responsibility and expectations, to sign and return an acknowledgement of their agreement to behave to an agreed standard.

4. Sports Leaders (Coaches, Selectors, Team Managers & Appointed Volunteers)

Badminton Ireland recognises the key role leaders play in the lives of children/young people in sport. Coaches and volunteers involved in youth badminton have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and help build an individual's confidence. They have an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided.

All Leaders should have as their priority the child's safety and enjoyment of the sport and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in Badminton Ireland's Safeguarding Children and Young People policy.

This summary explains what you should do to keep young people **safe** and make sure they have **fun**. It also helps you think about what responsibilities you have.

5. Badminton Sports Leaders

Are there to make sure children/young people learn skills, enjoy the activity and keep safe. It means you should respect children/young people and consider their safety by:

5.1 being reliable

5.2 being fair and letting them have their say

5.3 making them feel safe

5.4 letting them take part

5.5 encouraging them

5.6 being a good role model

5.7 not showing favouritism

5.8 never condoning bullying or abusive language

5.9 work in an open environment where children and young people can voice concerns

5.10 adhere to Badminton Ireland supervision guidelines as per the supervision policy.

5.11 holding a register of those who attend each session – This is very important from an insurance perspective

5.12 agreeing to safe recruitment procedures (including vetting)

5.13 Making sure that they do not feel uncomfortable.

Coaches and Volunteers must make sure that:

- They themselves are vetted through Badminton Ireland
- the activity is FUN
- they have the right qualification for their role
- the equipment used is safe
- you know what you are doing
- you work to the Badminton Ireland code of conduct
- Act as a good role model for children and young people
- You treat young people as individuals.

You should not:

5.14 engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay

5.15 allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching

5.16 allow children/young people to use foul, sexualised or discriminatory language unchallenged

5.17 make sexually suggestive comments to a child/young person

5.18 enter the area of play unless the referee/official in charge has given permission to do so

5.19 take coaching sessions on your own

5.20 reduce a child/young person to tears as a form of control

5.21 smoke, consume alcohol or use non-prescribed drugs whilst underage players are in your care

5.22 allow allegations made by a child/young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon

5.23 over-train your players

5.24 Invite or allow children/young people to stay with you at your home.

5.25 Communicate individually by text, email or via social media with children or young people

5.26 Ignore any concerns a child/young person may have regarding their welfare

It is hugely important that the coach is made aware of who their Safeguarding Officer is, and that any concerns that are made aware to a coach regarding a child/young person are passed onto the Safeguarding Officer.

Coaches and volunteers within Badminton are expected to make themselves familiar with and sign the more detailed Sports Coaches Charter

6. Supporters and Spectators

Supporters and spectators are encouraged to appreciate the entertainment given by the sport of Badminton. We acknowledge the impact that supporters and spectators have in promoting our sport and enhancing the image of Badminton.

In this capacity, supporters of the game and those who play it should take into consideration the following in terms of their behaviour within our sport:

6.1 Applaud good performances and effort, particularly when watching children/young players

6.2 Condemn the use of violence in any form

6.3 Using appropriate and acceptable language

6.4 Respecting all officials within the game

6.5 Never disrespecting a player who makes a mistake

6.6 Never entering the court of play at any stage

6.7 Ensuring that respect is shown to opponents to those of whom you are supporting

It is important that all those who are there to support players do so in a manner which upholds the principles of fair play.

7. Event & Court Officials

Without the Umpires and event officials Badminton Ireland supports, we would struggle to implement our matches, programmes and tournaments in an efficient, safe and fair environment.

Our referees and umpires in particular have an important role to play in implementing the principles and rules we have set out in the Code of Conduct.

Our officials should behave in a manner by which we follow the below guidelines:

7.1 Apply the playing rules impartially and with consistency

7.2 Deal with any breaches of the code in a fair and transparent manner

7.3 Communicate effectively and respectfully to all players, coaches and officials

7.4 Work in unison with fellow officials at an event

7.5 In a case of a challenge of decision, communicate your reasons for such decision to a player in a respectful manner

7.6 Maintain composure regardless of the situation

7.7 Deal with foul or abusive language in a firm and fair manner

7.8 Report any cases of misconduct, in line with this document to the person in charge.

7.9 Undertake agreed checks / training as requested by Badminton Ireland and its affiliated body's.

8. Clubs & Committees

Clubs and committees have a massive role to play in protecting the integrity of Badminton. The volunteers who run and deliver activities do so in the best interests of the development of the sport, and Badminton Ireland fully supports volunteers in carrying out their roles.

In terms of applying best practice at a local level, it is important that our affiliated bodies adopt an approach which offers great levels of protection to our participants who play the sport, to the parents of children and young people who play, and offer support and reassurance to our officials in order that we can enjoy the sport of Badminton in a safe, enjoyable environment where fair play is at the core of what we implement in practice.

Affiliated Bodies can act in a proactive manner by:

8.1 Adopting and implementing the code of conduct

8.2 Leading by example

8.3 Developing effective and efficient procedures particularly in terms of enforcing the code of conduct

8.4 Agreeing the roles and responsibilities of people working within the club

8.5 Ensuring that all checks such as Vetting and Safeguarding Training are completed

8.6 Ensuring that all people working with children and young people are adequately qualified with respect to these checks, and any other qualifications that are required

8.7 Ensuring that there are structures in place to protect all involved such as the implementation of

safe travel and supervision policies

8.8 Appointing a suitably qualified Safeguarding Officer who is also the Designated Liaison Person.

8.9 Encouraging participation and interaction of parents of young players

8.10 Ensuring that all those who join their Badminton Club are appropriately affiliated to Badminton Ireland for insurance and eligibility purposes

8.11 Promoting the code of conduct with their club and at events

8.12 Ensuring that principles of transparency, fairness and integrity are upheld in the case of a complaint being made

8.13 Ensuring that all documentation legally required is administrated, and adhered to, including that all players participating are affiliated to Badminton Ireland.

By promoting the importance of the Code of Conduct within your affiliated body at the start of the playing season, and continuing on through, the affiliated body is in a position where they can enforce set rules in terms of what is expected by all within the club.

The Safeguarding Officer can implement informal actions in the case of a breach of the code in the first instance and can seek advice from Badminton Ireland in such a scenario.

9. Reporting & Sanctions

Participants, Coaches, Supporters, Parents/Guardians, Referees/Officials & Clubs should report breaches of the code of conduct to the appropriate person or committee within the club or organisation, as per the reporting/complaints procedure outlined in the Complaints & Disciplinary Policy.

Any breaches of the above-mentioned points within the code of conduct will be investigated by the relevant affiliated body and/or National Governing Body and disciplinary proceedings in respect of a breach shall be conducted in accordance with the Badminton Ireland's disciplinary procedures (or those of the affiliated body) set out in the policies and procedures.

The following is a short list of recommended sanctions, for consideration:

- A caution, a warning as to future conduct, or a reprimand
- A monetary fine
- The requirement to replay the sport at such time and at such venue as is thought fit
- The forfeiture of, and/or the granting to another club or clubs, the competition points
- The banning of club supporters from an event
- The suspension or expulsion, in part or in full, of the club, player or person for such period as may be deemed appropriate
- Such other penalty or sanction as may be deemed appropriate, or as outlined in the Badminton Ireland Complaints & Disciplinary Policy

Any breaches of conduct set out in the code of conduct will be investigated by the club/committee/ National Governing Body involved.

Disciplinary proceedings in respect of any breach shall be conducted in accordance with the disciplinary procedures. Conduct giving rise to an alleged breach of the code of conduct shall be reviewed accordingly at the time the alleged breach occurred. The applicable disciplinary procedure shall be that in effect at the time the disciplinary action is commenced.

Incidents of alleged criminal behaviour or suspected criminal behaviour should be reported to the relevant authorities

Badminton Ireland Code of Conduct

Please complete and return this sheet to your club secretary.

I have read and accept the Badminton Ireland Code of Conduct in accordance with my role within Badminton Ireland and its affiliated body's.

I understand that any breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action being taken in line with the Badminton Ireland Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures, or in the case of suspected abuse under the regulations in Badminton Ireland Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

Signature.....

Date.....

Appendix 1: National Squad Parental Code

- The coaching staff will be fully responsible and authorised by Badminton Ireland to lead and make the final decisions in respect of all aspects of the trip, including but not limited to, decisions around meals and nutrition, training and additional arrangements throughout the trip.
- The coaching staff will be fully responsible for decisions made at and lead the professional practise sessions, with no parental / guardian involvement permitted during the squad sessions.
- The decision of the coaches in relation to team selection is full and final. There is no recourse to appeal this. Parent cannot discuss team selection with the coaches at any time and canvassing in this regard may disqualify your child from selection by the coach.
- Parental / Guardian coaching the children during a match, anywhere in the match centre, is not permitted. This is the sole responsibility of the appointed professional coaches.
- Should a parent have any legitimate concerns re alleged abuse and neglect in relation to their child the proper medium is to raise this concern with the Badminton Ireland Child Safeguarding Officer. The Safeguarding Officer will be responsible to follow this up with the coaching staff or the player in question or relevant authorities as per the requirements the Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy
- Parents/guardians will follow the team arrangements as set out by Badminton Ireland, including but not limited to, meeting times, playing kit, communication to their child while the event is taking place.
- Parents/guardians will encourage fair play and mutual respect between players at all times.

- Parents/guardians will familiarise themselves with and abide by the Badminton Ireland Social Media Policy at all times.
- Parents/guardians will provide feedback when requested by Badminton Ireland after their child has attended a trip.
- Parents/guardians are expected to be recognisant of the fact that their children are representing Ireland at an International event and their actions and behaviours will at all times be under scrutiny and any actions that will adversely affect the reputation of Badminton Ireland may interfere with future funding for the sport and the selection of your child at any future events.