



Coaches and Volunteers Code of Conduct

Good Coaches and Volunteers ensure participants in paddlesport have positive experiences and are therefore more likely to continue in the sport and achieve their potential. Coaches and volunteers should therefore ensure they demonstrate a high degree of honesty, integrity and competence at all levels. We want our Coaches and Volunteers to understand their responsibilities whilst maintaining the key concept that participation is for fun and enjoyment as well as achievement.

1. Coaches and Volunteers must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport
2. Coaches and Volunteers must place the well-being and safety of the child above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by British Canoeing and Liverpool Canoe Club.
3. Coaches and Volunteers must develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, especially children, based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
4. Coaches and Volunteers must encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own behaviour.
5. Coaches should hold up to date nationally recognised BRITISH CANOEING qualifications.
6. Coaches and Volunteers must ensure the activities they direct, or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
7. Coaches and Volunteers should clarify with participants, and where appropriate their parents, exactly what is expected of them during the session.
8. Coaches and Volunteers should always promote the positive aspects of their sport e.g. fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.

9. Coaches and Volunteers should not be under the influence of drink, drugs or any substance.
10. Coaches and Volunteers must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
11. Coaches and Volunteers should be acutely aware of the power that a coach develops with players and avoid any intimacy (sexual or otherwise).
12. Coaches and Volunteers should be acutely aware of situations with paddlers that could be construed as compromising and actions that others could perceive as being outside the coaching role.
13. Coaches and Volunteers should report any concerns within the area of Child Protection / Vulnerable Adults in confidence and without delay to the appropriate person.
14. Coaches and Volunteers should at no time make comment to the media. The Club Welfare Officer or Assistant should be made aware of any media interest in relation to Child Protection / Vulnerable Adults.

In the event of an allegation of improper behaviour being made, the personal conduct and professional behaviour of the adult will be very important evidence. For child abuse to take place, particularly sexual abuse, the child and adult(s) will generally be alone and away from public view. Thus, the best practice is to avoid all situations in which behaviour cannot be observed.

Child Protection is about putting in place the best possible practices and procedures, this will protect not only the child but also you, the adult.

If you have any comments on this guideline or require any further support or guidance relating to children and young person, please contact the Club Welfare Officer or Assistant.