

A Code of Practice for coaches, match officials, pupils, parents and spectators in regard of ISA sport

The Code of Conduct has been created for teachers, coaches, match officials, pupils, parents and spectators to refer to when engaged with sport in ISA schools. Sources of reference include ISFA code of conduct, RFU guidelines – mind, body and soul.

Teachers & Coaches

1. Schools have a responsibility to ensure that hired professional coaches, gap students and any other adult helpers use appropriate language and behaviour when working with young children and commit fully to the spirit of this code of practice.
2. Coaches must be reasonable in their demands on children's time, energy and enthusiasm - they need other interests.
3. Children play for fun and enjoyment and winning is only part of this. Never ridicule or shout at children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
4. Coaches should make a personal commitment to keep themselves informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of children's growth and development.
5. Players should be grouped according to age, height, skill and physical maturity where appropriate and in accordance with the relevant National Governing Body.
6. Coaches should try to arrange an appropriate balance between practice and fixtures – giving opportunity to all children who wish to participate without over playing the most able.
7. It is expected that schools enter regional swimming, cross-country and athletic competitions on the understanding that all participating pupils are eligible for selection for the National finals and are expected to attend barring illness, injury or an exceptional and unexpected circumstance.
8. Ensure that equipment and facilities are appropriate to the age and ability of the players and meet safety standards as set in the publication 'Safe Practice in Physical Education' (BAALPE – ISBN 1-87-122811-5).
9. Teach players that the rules/laws of the game are for their own safety and should be respected at all times.
10. Ensure that players respect the ability of their opponents and the judgement of match officials.
11. All coaches/teachers should be fully conversant with school safeguarding procedures and be CRB checked as required.

Match Officials

All match officials should:-

1. Do their utmost to ensure that the players enjoy the experience of playing for their school.
2. Be a positive role model and lead by example

3. Keep up to date with refereeing/umpiring qualifications and practices in their sport as well as any changes in playing regulations.
4. Recognise that the safety of players is paramount.
5. Explain their decisions clearly and concisely remembering at all times to be fair and unbiased.
6. Refuse to tolerate or condone foul play of any kind.
7. Emphasise the spirit and the ethos of the game.
8. Take time to speak to players and coaches after the game.

Parents

Remember that children develop at different rates and react differently to the same pressures.

1. Don't force an unwilling child to participate in sport; he or she is not playing to satisfy your ambitions.
2. Children are involved in organised sport primarily for their enjoyment and not yours.
3. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
4. Teach your child that effort and teamwork are as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Turn defeat into victory by helping your child work towards skill improvement and a positive sporting attitude. Never ridicule or shout at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Children learn best by example. Applaud good play by members of all teams not just your own.
7. Do not question publicly the officials' judgement and never their honesty.
8. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sport.
9. Recognise the value and importance of coaches. Allow them to decide what is best. They give their time, energy and experience to provide guidance for your child.
10. Set an example by being friendly to the opposition parents.
11. Emphasise enjoyment and fun. Praise and reinforce effort and improvement.
12. Be aware of the physical demands that sport places on your child. Participation in both school and club matches may be too much for some individuals. Priority should be given to playing for the school as stated in the terms and conditions of many schools.
13. An enquiry about a pupil's selection, or otherwise, for a regional or National team must be made to the pupil's school, not the member of staff acting as Event Organiser or Regional team Manager.

Pupils

All pupils should:-

1. Play for the fun and enjoyment of it, not just to please their parents or coach/teacher.
2. Where rules apply try to learn them and stick to them.
3. Accept decisions; let their captain or coach ask any necessary questions.
4. Control their temper and be a good sport.
5. Remember to respect their opponents and the match officials.
6. Remember that the aim of the game is to have fun, improve skills and feel good. They should not show off nor attempt to score the most points/goals etc.
7. Work equally hard for the team as for themselves. Their team's performance will benefit alongside their own.

8. Treat all players as they themselves would wish to be treated. They should not bully nor take unfair advantage of any player either on their own or on the opposition's side.
9. Co-operate with their coach, team-mates and opponents – without them there would be no game.
10. Appreciate and respect the adults who make these opportunities possible.

Spectators

Spectators should remember the following:-

1. Children play organised sport for their own fun. They are not there solely to entertain you and they are not miniature adults nor professional sportsmen and women.
2. Do not harass or swear at players, coaches or officials
3. Applaud good play by both sides and show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
4. Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competitive match of any kind.
5. Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
6. Respect the decisions made by officials.
7. Encourage players always to play to the rules.
8. Relax and enjoy the game whether your team wins or not.
9. Remember that young people learn by example so make sure that yours is the right one!
