



LETTERKENNY BLAZE BASKETBALL CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club Ltd. is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents¹ associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others.

As a Coach in Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club, in order to act as a role model and to promote your safety and the safety of young people in sport you should:

Create a safe and enjoyable environment for children and young people by:

- Planning and preparing appropriately and being positive during sessions.
- Aim to have fun and enjoyable training sessions for all.
- Prioritising skill development over highly structured competition.
- Setting age appropriate and realistic goals.
- Avoiding favouritism – each child will need attention according to their sporting needs.
- Praising and encouraging effort as well as results.
- Showing respect for all involved, this includes all children/young people and adults.
- Fostering team work.
- Taking time to explain coaching techniques (drills, plays) to ensure they are clearly understood.

Recognise and ensure the welfare of children by:

- Keeping accurate attendance records.
- Not exposing a child to criticism, hostility or sarcasm.
- Never swearing at, ridiculing, shouting unnecessarily or arguing with a child.
- Being aware of a child's developmental needs and how a child may be psychologically or physically affected (if relevant for your role).
- Working in an open environment.
- Ensuring there is adequate supervision. 1: 8 for children younger than 12 years and 1:10 for children older than 12 years

¹ Parents = parent/carer/guardian wherever it is mentioned throughout this document

- Involving and updating parents. Invite parents to a meeting at the beginning of the season and clearly communicate to them the plan for the season ahead. Also involve parents if a problem has arisen.
- Respecting a child's sensitivity and adapting behaviour and interactions accordingly.
- Respecting the privacy of young people while changing, coaches may only need to enter the changing rooms where the participants are very young or require special assistance.
- Never using physical punishment or force.
- Not using verbal or physical punishments or exclusion for mistakes.
- Respecting all Club policies as listed on club website.
- Being positive, approachable and offering praise.
- Appreciating the efforts of all young people.
- Treating all young people fairly, ensuring they feel valued.
- Listening to and respecting the opinions of young people.
- Observing children's and young people's interaction with other team members in training and games and intervening and or reporting concerns if needed.

Additional Information:

- Do not allow or engage in bullying behaviour, the use of bad/inappropriate language, rough physical games, sexually provocative games, inappropriate physical contact of any kind or make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child.
- Coaches of Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club should only contact parents/guardians in the club via text message, social media messaging, email or phone call. No direct phone contact is allowed between coaches and any underage player.
- Co-operate with the recommendations from medical and ancillary practitioners in the management of a child's medical or related problems.
- Avoid carrying out any medical testing or giving advice of a personal or medical nature if not qualified to do so or undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children. Any such activity, if qualified, must only be with parent¹ consent and the understanding of the child.
- Keep any information in relation to a child/young person of a personal or medical nature strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information on a need to know basis.
- Never exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Acknowledge the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco is incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity and must be discouraged. Avoid the use of alcohol at all times whilst responsible for young people e.g. training sessions, events and on trips with young people
- Hold the required qualification for the relevant age group as per BI recommendations. Up to under 14, Introduction Level Qualification required. Under 14 and above, Level One Qualification required.

- Attend Coaches meetings/workshops and use this opportunity to give any suggestions or comments. You can also e-mail the Club Coaches Liaison Officer with any suggestions throughout the season.
- Attend Club AGM
 - Be a role model, displaying consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
 - Report suspected harm or abuse to the Club Children's Officer.

Coaches/Volunteers have the right to:

- Access ongoing training and information on all aspects of leading/managing activities for young people, particularly on safeguarding of children/young people.
- Support in the reporting of suspected abuse.
- Access to professional support services which are relevant to their coaching role.
- Fair and equitable treatment by the governing body/Letterkenny Blaze Basketball club.
- Be protected from abuse by children/young people, other adult members and parents¹.
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with children.

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with immediately and reported to the Grievance & Disciplinary Committee. Persistent breach of the code will result in dismissal from Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club.

Dismissals can be appealed by the coach/volunteer in line with Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club's Grievance and Disciplinary Policy or referred to Basketball Ireland.

Emergency Action/First Aid

All coaches, leaders and members should familiarise themselves with the first aid facilities available within their venue. They should also have a plan in the event of an emergency.

This will include:

- Access to First Aid equipment. A First Aid Box is maintained in the Blaze Cupboard in the lobby of the Loreto Secondary School Gym. All Coaches should carry their portable first aid kits with them on match days & to all training events. Please report any items which need replacement to the Club's designated First Aid Officer.
- All accidents / incidents to be recorded on the Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Accident Report Form and a copy given to the Club Secretary within 72 hours of the accident / incident occurring.
- Coaches should maintain telephone contact details for children/young people in their care.
- Telephone contact numbers for the Emergency Services 112 or 999.