

**Code of Practice for Badminton Coaches**

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Coaches play a crucial role in the development of badminton and in the lives of the players whom they coach. Good coaches ensure that participants in badminton have positive experiences and are therefore more likely to continue playing badminton and to realise their potential.

Coaching, as an emerging profession, must demonstrate a high degree of honesty, integrity and competence at all levels. The need for coaches to understand and act upon their responsibilities is of critical importance to badminton, as is the need to protect the key concept of participation for fun and enjoyment as well as achievement. This is implicit within good coaching practice and promotes a professional image of the good practitioner. This Code of Practice defines all that is best in good coaching practice.

# Good coaching practice needs to reflect the following key principles:

* **Rights**

Badminton coaches must respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in sport.

# Relationships

Badminton coaches must develop a relationship with players (and others) based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect.

# Responsibilities: Personal Standards

Badminton coaches must demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct all times.

# Responsibilities: Professional Standards

To maximise the benefits and minimise the risks to players, badminton coaches must attain a high level of competence through qualifications, and a commitment to ongoing training which ensures safe and correct practice.

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| **Principle** | **Statement** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| Rights | Badminton coaches must respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in the sport. | Badminton coaches should:* Assist in the creation of an environment where every individual has the opportunity to participate in badminton
* Create and maintain an environment free of fear and harassment
* Recognise the rights of all players to be treated as individuals
* Recognise the rights of players to confer with other coaches and experts
* Promote the concept of a balanced lifestyle, supporting the well-being of the player both in and out of the sport
 | * Treat all individuals in badminton with respect at all times
* Do not discriminate on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation
* Do not condone or allow any form of discrimination to go unchallenged
* Do not publicly criticise or engage in demeaning descriptions of others
* Be discreet in any conversations about players, coaches or other individuals
* Communicate with and provide feedback to players in a manner which reflects respect and care.
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| **Principle** | **Statement** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| Relationships | Badminton coaches must develop a relationship with players (and others) based on openness, mutual trust and respect | Badminton coaches:* Must not engage in behaviour which constitutes any form of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, bullying)
* Should promote the welfare and best interests of their players
* Must avoid sexual intimacy with players either while coaching them or in the period of time immediately following the end of the coaching relationship
* Must take action if they have a concern about the behaviour of an adult towards a child
* Should empower players to be responsible for their own decisions
* Should clarify the nature of the coaching services being offered to players
 | * Be aware of physical needs of players, especially the developmental stage and needs of children and young people, and ensure that training loads and intensities are appropriate
* Ensure that physical contact is appropriate and necessary, and is carried out within

recommended guidelines with the player’s full consent and approval* Do not engage in any form of sexually related contact with any player for whom they have responsibility. This is strictly forbidden as is sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms. Badminton coaches are in a position of power and trust in relation to players. By entering into an intimate/sexual relationship with a player, a coach may be deemed guilty of abusing this position and, in relation to children and young people, this may also be unlawful
* Inform parents or guardians immediately if you are at all concerned about the welfare of a child, unless there are concerns that this would not be in the interests of the child
* Know and understand the Badmintonscotland Child Protection Policy and adhere to this. This can be found on the website.
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| **Principle** | **Statement** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| Relationships ctd. |  | * Should communicate and co-operate with other organisations and individuals in the best interests of players
 | * Follow the reporting procedures laid down by Badmintonscotland if you have a concern— non-action is unacceptable
* Arrange to transfer a player to another coach if it is clear that an inappropriate relationship is developing
* Discuss with parents and other interested parties the impact of the programme on the player
* Respect players’ opinions when making decisions about their participation in badminton
* Encourage players to take responsibility for their own development and actions
* Allow players to discuss and participate in the decision-making process
* Discuss and agree with players what information is confidential
* Inform players or their parents/guardians of the requirements of the sport
* Inform players or their parents/guardians of any potential costs involved in accessing the coaching services on offer
* Be aware of and communicate on any conflict of interest as soon as it becomes apparent
* Do not work with any other coach's player without first discussing or agreeing it with both the coach and the player involved
* Identify and agree with players which experts or organisations could offer appropriate services
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| **Principle** | **Statement** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| Responsibilities- personal standards | Badminton coaches must demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times | Badminton coaches:* Must be fair, honest and considerate to players and others in their sport
* Should project an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency
* Must be positive role models for players at all times
 | * Operate within the rules and the spirit of badminton
* Educate players on issues relating to the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport and co

-operate fully with UK Anti-Doping* Maintain the same level of interest and support when a player is sick or injured
* Display high standards in use of language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation
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| **Principle** | **Statement** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| Responsibilities- personal standards ctd. |  |  | * Encourage players to display the same qualities
* Do not smoke, drink, alcohol or use recreational drugs before or while coaching. This reflects a negative image and could compromise the safety of your players
* Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in your sport.
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| **Principle** | **Statement** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| Responsibilities- professional standards | To maximise the benefits and minimise the risks to players, badminton coaches must attain a high level of competence through qualifications, and a commitment to ongoing training which ensures safe and correct practice | Badminton coaches will:* Ensure that the environment is as safe as possible taking into account and minimising possible risks
* Promote the execution of safe and correct practice
* Be professional and accept responsibility for their actions
* Make a commitment to providing a quality service to their players
* Actively promote the positive benefits to society of participation in sport, including the positive contribution sport can make to achieving improved outcomes for children and young people
* Contribute to the development of coaching as a profession by exchanging knowledge and ideas with others and by working in partnership with other agencies and professionals
* Gain Badmintonscotland Coaching Qualifications appropriate to the level at which they coach
 | * Follow the guidelines of Badmintonscotland
* Plan all sessions so that they meet the needs of the players and are progressive and appropriate
* Maintain appropriate records of your players
* Recognise and accept when it is appropriate to refer a player to another coach or specialist
* Seek to achieve the highest level of qualification available
* Demonstrate commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) by undertaking/attending learning opportunities to maintain up-to-date knowledge of technical developments in badminton
* Undertake/attend CPD opportunities to maintain up-to-date knowledge and understanding of other issues which might impact on both you and your players
* Be aware of the social issues and how badminton can contribute to local, regional or national initiatives
* Actively participate in recruitment and education opportunities in badminton
* Actively contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to improve the standards and quality of coaching both in badminton and in sport in general
* Practise in an open and transparent fashion which encourages other coaches to contribute to or learn from your knowledge and experience
* Engage in self-analysis and reflection to identify your professional needs
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| **Principle** | **Statement** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| Responsibilities- professional standards ctd. |  |  | * Seek CPD opportunities to develop your coaching skills and competencies and update your knowledge
* Manage your lifestyle and coaching commitments to avoid burnout which might impair your performance
* Do not assume responsibility for any role for which you are not qualified or prepared
* Do not misrepresent your level of qualification
* Promote good coaching practice in others and challenge any poor practice of which you become aware
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Coaches are asked to promote good coaching practice at all times by adhering to this Code of Practice.

**Additional guidelines when working with children and young people under the age of 18.**

**NEVER** contact a young player by text, phone, email or social media. **ALL** contact should be via the young person's parent/carer

**NEVER** 'friend' a young player on social media. You may have a professional social media account that young people can follow, but this should **ONLY** be used to promote badminton and to share information e.g. video clips of a tactical rally (professional matches only). Parents/carers should be informed of your social media site, and encouraged to follow it. **NEVER** make reference to any young person on social media.

**NEVER** give a young person a lift in your car unless their parent/carer is **FULLY** aware of it and has given permission. ALWAYS let the parent/carer know what time you leave the sports centre and what time you expect to arrive at their home. Try to avoid this practice unless in the event of an emergency.

**ALWAYS** wait until all your young players have been collected at the end of a session. **NEVER** leave a young person unsupervised. If you must leave, place the young person in the care of the sports centre staff, and phone their parent/carer to inform them of this. When waiting with a young person, do so inside (where possible) and in public.

Do **NOT** take videos/photos of young players unless it is essential to their development e.g. taking a short video clip of their play in order for the player to see themselves and analyse their performance. Video clips should be deleted **IMMEDIATELY** after viewing, and deleted in the presence of the young person. **ENSURE** you have written permission of parents/carers before you consider using video/photography for player analysis.

If you notice a change in behaviour/demeanour of a young player **TELL** someone, do not ignore it. Speak to the young person to try to ascertain what the issue is. If they disclose something to you, you **MUST** pass this information on to an appropriate person (e.g. parent/carer, Child Protection Officer). Do **NOT** promise to keep the information a secret.

# You must sign and date this Code of Conduct in order to complete your Coach Registration application. This must be done each year at the time of registration. By signing this form you agree to abide by the Coaches Code of Conduct. Badminton Scotland staff understand that this Coaches Code of Conduct forms part of their contractual agreement.

Name: .......................................................................... Date:...............................................

Signed:.....................................................................................................................................

April 2017