

Ballymena Hockey Club

Coaches Code of Conduct

Ballymena Hockey Club supports and requires the following good practice by coaches when in contact with children.

- Make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play;
- Always work in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encourage an open environment for activities;
- Treat all children and vulnerable adults equally, with respect and dignity;
- Put the welfare of each child first before winning or achieving performance goals;
- Be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism;
- Ensure that if any form of manual or physical support is required for a child, it is provided openly, the child is informed of what is being done and their consent is obtained;
- Deliver educational instruction first verbally; secondly role-modelled; and thirdly, and only if necessary, with hands on which must be accompanied by telling the child where you are putting your hands and why it is necessary and obtaining their consent;
- Involve parents, guardians and carers wherever possible
- Build balanced relationships based on mutual trust that empower children to share in the decision making process
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and avoid excessive training or competition and either pushing them against their will or putting undue pressure on them
- Encourage players to refrain from using bad language.
- Insist that players respect the decisions of the umpires.