



Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults 2012

This code of conduct details the types of practice required by all members of **basketballscotland** when in contact with children or vulnerable adults. The types of practice are categorised into good practice; practice to be avoided and practice never to be sanctioned. Suspicions or allegations of non-compliance of the Code by a member will be dealt with through the **basketballscotland**'s Disciplinary Procedure for misconduct or through Responding to a Suspicion or Allegation of Abuse against a Member of **basketballscotland**.

Good Practice

basketballscotland supports and requires the following good practice by members and staff when in contact with children and vulnerable adults.

When working with children or vulnerable adults:

- Make basketball fun, enjoyable and promote fair play.
- Always work in an open environment e.g. avoid 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 or vulnerable adult first before winning or achieving performance goals.
- Be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children or vulnerable adults.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Ensure that if any form of manual or physical support is required for a child or vulnerable adult, it is provided openly, the child or vulnerable adult 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 or vulnerable adult 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 and vulnerable adults to share in the decision-making process.
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and vulnerable adults and avoid excessive training or competition and either pushing them against their will or putting undue pressure on them.

First Aid and Treatment of Injuries:

If, in your capacity as a member of **basketballscotland** a child or vulnerable adult requires first aid or any form of medical attention whilst in your care, then the following good practice must be followed:

- Where practicable all parents/guardians of children under 16 must complete a **basketballscotland** Medical Consent Form before participating in basketball.
- Be aware of any pre-existing medical conditions, medicines being taken by participants or existing injuries and treatment required.



- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Where possible, ensure access to medical advice and/or assistance is available.
- Only those with a current, recognised First Aid qualification should respond to any injuries.

- Where possible any course of action should be discussed with the child/vulnerable adult, in language that they understand and their permission sought before any action is taken.
- In more serious cases, assistance must be obtained from a medically qualified professional as soon as possible.

The child's or vulnerable adult's parents/guardians/carers must be informed of any injury and any action taken as soon as possible, unless it is in the child's or vulnerable adult's interests and on professional advice not to do so.

- A Notification of Accident Form must be completed and signed and passed to the organisation as soon as possible.

Taking and transporting children or vulnerable adults away from home:

If it is necessary to provide transport or take children or vulnerable adults away from home the following good practice must be followed:

- Where practicable request written parental/guardian consent if members are required to transport children or vulnerable adults.
- Always tell another member that you are transporting a child/vulnerable adult, give details of the route and the anticipated length of the journey.
- Ensure all vehicles are correctly insured.
- All reasonable safety measures are taken, e.g. children in the back seat, seatbelts are worn.
- Ensure, where possible, a male and female accompany mixed groups of children or vulnerable adults. These adults should be familiar with and agree to abide by **basketballscotland's** Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Always plan and prepare a detailed programme of activities and ensure copies are available for other members and parents/guardians.

Practice to Be Avoided

In the context of your role within **basketballscotland**, the following practice should be avoided:

- Avoid having 'favourites' - this could lead to resentment and jealousy by other children or vulnerable adults and could lead to false allegations.
- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children or vulnerable adults away from others.
- Ensure that when children or vulnerable adults are taken away from home adults avoid entering their rooms unless in an emergency situation or in the interest of health and safety. If it is necessary to enter rooms, the door should remain open, if appropriate.
- Avoid taking children or vulnerable adults to your home.
- Avoid sharing a room with a child or vulnerable adult for sleeping accommodation.



- Avoid, where possible, doing things of a personal nature for children and vulnerable adults that they can do for themselves.

Important Note:

It may sometimes be necessary for members to do things of a personal nature for children or vulnerable adults, particularly if they are very young or vulnerable. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the child or vulnerable adult and where possible their parents/guardians. It is important to respect their views. If a person is fully dependent on you, talk with him/her about what you are doing and give choices where possible, particularly so if you are involved in any dressing or undressing of outer clothing, or where there is physical contact, lifting or assisting a child or vulnerable adult to carry out particular activities. Do not take on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained.

Practice never to be sanctioned

In the context of your role within **basketballscotland** the following practices should never be sanctioned:

- Never engage in sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Never engage in rough or physical contact except as permitted within the rules of the game or competition.
- Never form intimate emotional or physical relationships with children or vulnerable adults.
- Never allow or engage in touching a child or vulnerable adult in a sexually suggestive manner.
- Never allow children or vulnerable adults to swear or use sexualised language unchallenged.
- Never make sexually suggestive comments to a child or vulnerable adult, even in fun.
- Never reduce a child or vulnerable adult to tears as a form of control.
- Never allow allegations made by a child or vulnerable adult to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Never invite or allow children or vulnerable adults to stay with you at your home.

Important Note:

In special cases sharing may be required for health and safety reasons or if the child is very young or particularly vulnerable. If so, explain why this is necessary to the child/vulnerable adult and their parent or guardian and seek their consent.

Reporting

If members have concerns about an incident involving a child or vulnerable adult that seems untoward or unusual they must report their concerns as soon as possible to the Child and Vulnerable Adult Officer. Parents should also be informed of the incident as soon as possible unless it is not in the child's or vulnerable adult's interests to tell them (refer to Section 8, Sharing Concerns with Parents, Guardians or Carers).

Report, record and inform if the following occur:

- If you accidentally hurt a child or vulnerable adult.
- If a child or vulnerable adult seems distressed in any manner.



- If a child or vulnerable adult misunderstands or misinterprets something you have said or done.
- If a child or vulnerable adult appears to be sexually aroused by your actions.
- If a child or vulnerable adult needs to be restrained.

4. Identifying and Managing Bullying

The lives of many people are made miserable by bullying. Victims of bullying can feel lonely, isolated and deeply unhappy. It can have a devastating effect on a child or vulnerable adult's self-esteem and destroy their self-confidence and concentration. They may become withdrawn and insecure, more cautious and less willing to take any sort of risk. They may feel it is somehow their fault or that there is something wrong with them and at worst cause depression and/or feelings of worthlessness that lead to suicide.

To ensure **basketballscotland** creates an atmosphere where bullying of children and vulnerable adults is unacceptable and to help members manage bullying issues, guidelines for identifying and managing bullying have been developed (see Appendix J).

Any suspicions or allegations of bullying of a child or vulnerable adult against a member will be dealt with through the **basketballscotland** Disciplinary Procedures and/or Responding to a Suspicion or Allegation of Abuse against a Member of **basketballscotland**.

Photographing, Videoing and Filming of Children and Vulnerable Adults

There is evidence that some people have used sporting venues and activities as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of children and vulnerable adults. The following procedures have been developed to protect children and vulnerable adults.

The following is required for **basketballscotland** activities or events where children or vulnerable adults are participating:

- Where appropriate all materials promoting **basketballscotland** events or activities shall state that accredited photographers will be present.
- Where possible consent from the parent/guardian for photographing, videoing and/or filming of a child or vulnerable adult must be obtained prior to the event or activity.
- Where possible anyone wishing to use photographic/film/video equipment at a venue must obtain the approval of **basketballscotland**.

An activity or event specific identification badge/sticker must be provided to and clearly displayed at all times by accredited photographers, film and video operators on the day of the activity or event.

- No unsupervised access or one-to-one sessions are to be permitted unless the child or vulnerable adult, parent/guardian and the organisation have approved this in advance, and appropriate vetting has occurred.
- **basketballscotland** reserves the right at all times to prohibit the use of photography, film or video at any event or activity with which it is associated.
- The requirements above are publicly promoted to ensure all people present at the event or activity understand the procedure and are aware of whom to contact if concerned.



Concerns about Photographers, Video or Film Operators

Any concerns with photographers or video or film operators are to be reported to **basketballscotland's** Child and Vulnerable Adult Officer and where relevant, the Police.

Children or Vulnerable Adults in Publications and on the Internet

Sport websites and publications provide excellent opportunities to broadcast achievements of individuals to the world and to provide a showcase for the activities of young people or vulnerable adults. In some cases, however, displaying certain information about children and vulnerable adults could place them at risk. The following procedure must be followed to ensure **basketballscotland** publications and **basketballscotland** information on the Internet do not place children and vulnerable adults at risk.

basketballscotland publications and **basketballscotland** information on the Internet must adhere to the following:

- Publications or information on an Internet site must never include personal information that could identify a child or vulnerable adult e.g. home address, e-mail address, telephone number of a child or vulnerable adult. Any contact information must be directed to either **basketballscotland** or another relevant organisation's address, for example another governing body or club.
- Before publishing any information about a child or vulnerable adult, written consent must be obtained from the child or vulnerable adult's parent/guardian. If the material is changed from the time of consent, the parents/guardians must be informed and consent provided for the changes.
- The content of photographs or videos must not depict a child or vulnerable adult in a provocative pose or in a state of partial undress other than when depicting a sporting activity. Where relevant, a tracksuit may be more appropriate attire. Children and vulnerable adults must never be portrayed in a demeaning or tasteless manner.
- All published events involving children or vulnerable adults must be reviewed to ensure the information will not put children or vulnerable adults at risk. Any publications of specific meetings or child/vulnerable adult events e.g. team coaching sessions, must not be distributed to any individuals other than to those directly concerned.
- Particular care must be taken in publishing photographs, film or videos of children or vulnerable adults who are considered particularly vulnerable e.g. the subject of a child or vulnerable adult protection issue or a custody dispute.
- Particular care is to be taken in publishing photographs, films or videos of children or vulnerable adults with physical, learning and/or communication or language disabilities, as they could be particularly vulnerable to abuse (Morgan, 1979; Watson, 1984).

Important Note: Any concerns or enquiries about publications or Internet information should be reported to **basketballscotland's** Child and Vulnerable Adult Officer.

Individuals who are accredited by **basketballscotland** will be permitted to film or photograph all competition fixtures under the auspices of **basketballscotland's** Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy & Procedures. All players, including any youth player regardless of age and level at which they are competing must accept this as a condition of playing in competitions.



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