5. Coaching Team Code of Conduct

Expected standards

Coaches must act professionally, respectfully and in the best interests of players. They must encourage effort, learning, confidence and individual development; avoid humiliation or favouritism; use appropriate language; and maintain clear professional boundaries.

Boundaries

Physical contact must be appropriate, necessary for coaching or safety, explained where possible and respectful of the player's wishes. Avoid being alone with a child in a secluded or closed space. Do not use personal messaging, disappearing messages or private social-media accounts to communicate with children. Use approved, transparent channels and include parents or guardians where appropriate.

Prohibited conduct

Coaches must not engage in bullying, discriminatory language, sexualised conversation, grooming, inappropriate relationships, corporal punishment, intimidation, retaliation or the use of alcohol or illegal drugs while responsible for players. Never ask a child to keep secrets about contact or behaviour.

Reporting and consequences

Any concern about conduct must be reported promptly under the safeguarding or complaints procedure. The business may remove a coach from duties while a concern is assessed, where appropriate and fair. Serious concerns will be referred to external authorities as required.