

Code of Conduct for Leaders

Leaders should ensure they:

- Are familiar with the Code of Ethics, these Guidelines, Swim Ireland Rules and any Club rules and are aware of and follow the required procedures contained in such
- Are qualified for their position and are up-to-date with the knowledge and skill required
- Create a safe environment for children, keeping attendance records, remember at all levels participation should be enjoyable and fun, skill development and personal satisfaction have priority over highly structured competition. Winning is not be the only objective, success is achieved by reaching goals
- Plan and prepare for activities/events where appropriate
- Take care to avoid favouritism. Each child will require attention appropriate to their needs and stage of development
- Take care not to expose a child to persistent criticism, sarcasm, or hostility
- Set age-appropriate and realistic goals with the young person recognising their developmental needs and that certain procedures may affect a child physically or psychologically.
- Insist that young people respect the rules and play fairly ensuring awareness that cheating or bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, leaders, coaches and other participants and avoid criticism of fellow coaches or other leaders
- Are aware of the boundaries of a working relationship that is based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect with young people
- Work in an open environment and avoid unobserved areas, ensuring adequate supervision for the activity
- Involve parents where possible and inform parents and/or Children's' Officer /club committee when problems arise.
- Co-operate with the recommendations from medical and ancillary practitioners in the management of a child's medical or related problems. A certificate of medical fitness may be required for continued participation
- 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 parent/guardian consent
- Are aware that children may be sensitive to their height, weight etc and avoid anything that may heighten that sensitivity.
- Keep any information in relation to a swimmer of a personal or medical nature strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information.
- Never use physical punishment or physical force and never punish a mistake either by verbal or physical means or by exclusion.
- Never engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games, never allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind or make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child.
- 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. Leaders must avoid the use of alcohol where responsible for young people before sessions, during events and on trips with young people

The following is the example declaration that must be signed by all Leaders – (separate sign-up sheet is available).

Have you ever been asked to leave a sporting organisation? Yes No

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution; a Bound Over Order; or are you at present the subject of criminal investigations? Yes No

(If you have answered yes to either questions above we will contact you in confidence)

I have read, understood and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for Leaders, Swim Ireland Guidelines for Safeguarding Children 2008, the Rules of Swim Ireland.

If an allegation of abuse is made against me, I agree to step aside until the outcome of any investigations are completed.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Print Name _____

Child protection number/date: _____

Club _____

Leaders position: _____