

# Athletics Ireland Coaches and Officials Code

## Coaches, Officials and Volunteers Code of Conduct

Sport should be safe, fun and conducted in a spirit of fair play

### **All coaches, officials and volunteers in athletics should:**

- Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and the experience of those taking part.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play)
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the club.
- Hold appropriate qualifications and insurance cover.
- Never exert undue influence over participants to gain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.
- Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Never use foul or inappropriate language.
- Never engage in any form of sexual relations with anyone under the age of 18, or vulnerable adults.
- Read, understand and put into practice all club policies and procedures.

Coaches and leaders should never place themselves in a compromising position by texting or communicating via social media sites with juvenile athletes. All such communications regarding athletics should be sent via the parents or guardians of the athlete.

**The following should apply when communicating with juvenile athletes:**

- Do use a club group text or email system for communicating with parents/guardians of athletes.
- Do not communicate individually by text or email with juvenile athletes.
- Do not engage in communications with underage athletes via personal social network sites.
- Always use official club group text or social media sites to communicate with juvenile athletes.