



Coaches/Sports Leaders Charter

This Charter is applicable to coaches/selector/managers and appointed volunteers.

Badminton Ireland recognises the key role coaches/selector/managers and appointed volunteers play in the development of the young people and adults with whom they work. All adults in our sport, have a Duty of Care for all children and they must do all they can to ensure that no action by them endangers the safety of any child. Therefore, as part of registration/qualification, sports leaders are required to sign this Sports Leaders Charter.

Sports Leaders are encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect the young players in their care and themselves from false allegations.

It is a condition of qualification that Coaches agree to this charter and to abide by the regulations and guidelines set out in Badminton Ireland's Safeguarding Young People policy.

Sports Leaders must agree to the assessment/recruitment procedures outlined in Badminton Ireland's Safeguarding Young People policy.

Sports Leaders about whom concerns have been raised regarding misconduct, illegality, or extreme poor practice, may be asked to stand aside from badminton activities until such time as the issue(s) have been satisfactorily resolved. This regulation stands whether the concern is being addressed by an official outside agency or internally by Badminton Ireland.

Sports Leaders must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and adult and must treat everyone equally, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.

Sports Leaders should place the well being and safety of the player above the performance.

Sports Leaders should develop an appropriate working relationship with young players based on mutual trust and respect.

It is important to realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted by the participant or by outsiders.

Sports Leaders are responsible for setting appropriate boundaries with the individuals they are working with. They are responsible for maintaining and monitoring boundaries between a working relationship and friendship (e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with an underage player or to share a room, tent, shower/bath or changing facilities with them).

It is not appropriate for Sports Leaders to involve young players in their personal life i.e. visits to coaches home or overnight stays.

Where Sports Leaders appoint or employ younger leaders for projects, it is expected that they will adopt behaviour in keeping with appropriate employer/employee working standards.

Sports Leaders must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.



Sports Leaders should, at the outset, clarify with players, and where appropriate with their parents, exactly what is expected of them and what players are entitled to expect from their Sports Leaders.

Sports Leaders should ensure that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it is provided openly and according to agreed guidelines. If physical support is needed, talk aloud to the young person, explaining what you are doing, and why, as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when young person is constantly moving. Children/young people should always be consulted before they are touched and their agreement gained. Parental/carer views about manual support should always be carefully considered.

Sports Leaders should involve parents/carers wherever possible (e.g. for the responsibility of their children in the changing rooms). If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, ensure parents/teachers/coaches/officials work in pairs.

Sports Leaders should always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment, e.g. no secrets).

Sports Leaders should avoid entering rooms of underage players, invite or permit young players into their rooms or become involved in unobserved or unsupervised 1:1 situations with underage players.

When young players are invited into adult groups/squads, it is advisable to get agreement from a parent/carer. Boundaries of behaviour in adult groups are normally different from the boundaries that apply to junior groups/squads. The group leader or senior coach should nominate one adult member of the group to take particular responsibility for the underage player. Where necessary, two adult members, one of each gender, can be appointed.

The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must be actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.

Sports Leaders should recognise the developmental needs and capacity of young players, including those with a disability – avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will.

Physical punishment or physical force must never be used. Never punish a mistake - by verbal means, physical means, or exclusion

Sports Leaders are advised to secure parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis (BI recommend using the sample form (appendix 9 provided through the BI office or is downloadable from the BI website), if the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment. They should also keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

The nature of the relationship between sports leader and player can often mean that a leader will learn confidential information about a player or player's family. This information must be regarded as confidential and except where abuse is suspected, must not be divulged to a third party without the express permission of the player/family. Care must be taken not to expose a player intentionally or unintentionally to embarrassment or disparagement by use of sarcastic or flippant remarks about the person or his/her family.



Badminton sports leaders should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of the players' medical and psychological problems.

Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature – if you are not qualified to do so. Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the young player requires the passing on of this information. Sports Leaders should insist that players respect the rules of the game and are aware that cheating or bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.

Sports Leaders are expected to encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other sports leaders and avoid criticism of fellow leaders.

Sports Leaders should immediately report any accusations made against them or their colleagues.

Sports Leaders must be particularly careful about their use of alcohol, before coaching, during events, on trips with young players.

Badminton Ireland appreciates the valuable contribution our sports leaders make to the development of the sport and to the enjoyment of all our players, both juvenile and adult. Badminton Ireland will do all it can to protect players and leaders and strongly encourages "best practice" protocols for all personnel involved.

Sports Leaders can best work towards best practice and reduce the risk of placing themselves in a vulnerable position by adhering to the following "good practice" guidelines:

It is advisable to:

- Record attendance at training.
- Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken.
- If behavioural problems arise and a young player has to be disciplined, keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes and inform their parents.

Practices sports leaders should avoid:

- Spending any time alone with children/young people away from others.
- Taking children/young people to your home.
- Taking sessions alone
- Taking children on journeys alone in their car

Practices never to be sanctioned by sports leaders.

- Share a room/tent/changing room/bath or shower with a young player.
- Allow young players to use foul, sexualised or discriminatory language unchallenged.
- Reduce child or young person to tears as a form of control.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Undertake personal care for children/young players (rather ensure that a parent or carer is responsible for personal care).
- Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home.
- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward



- Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and /or make sexually suggestive comments about, or to a child
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adults
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children

Coach Specific Issues

Coaches should hold up to date and nationally recognised coaching qualifications and hold appropriate individual insurance cover.

Coaching qualifications are awarded jointly by Coaching Ireland and Badminton Ireland. On successful completion of an approved coaching course, coaches may use the title "Badminton Ireland Registered Coach".

As a condition of remaining on the Badminton Ireland's Register of Coaches, it is essential that coaches' actions are in line with Badminton Ireland's approved programmes, and Branch or County/League programmes, for the management and development of the game.

Coaches who become aware of a conflict between their obligation to their players and their obligation to their governing body must make explicit the nature of the conflict and the loyalties and responsibilities involved, to all parties concerned.

Because Badminton Ireland is aware of the vulnerability of young adults between the ages of 18 and 25, even though they are no longer legally regarded as "children", all sports leaders should observe these guidelines when working with people in that age group.

Sports Leaders should familiarise themselves with Badminton Ireland's Code of Conduct & Safeguarding Young People Policy and follow the procedures if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse of any sort.

Please complete and sign sheet overleaf and return to Badminton Ireland.



Badminton Ireland Sports Leaders Charter

Please complete and return this sheet to Badminton Ireland.

Course Level	
Date & Venue of course attended	

I have read and accept the guidelines and regulations contained in Badminton Ireland's Sports Leaders Charter.

I understand that any breach of this Charter will be dealt with under Badminton Ireland's Complaints Management Procedures or in the case of suspected abuse under the regulations in Badminton Ireland's Safeguarding Policy.

Name	
Address	
Tel.No.	
E-mail	
Date of Birth	
Club/School or College	

Signed: _____

Date: _____