



Cherwell Canoe Club Code of Conduct

Coaches, Officials and Volunteers Code Of Conduct

Whilst it is important for all adults to understand their responsibility with participants, particularly children and vulnerable adults, the Club is concerned that specific advice is given concerning the behaviour of all coaches, staff, volunteers and other officials. In addition, Club Officers should know what standard of behaviour is acceptable. This applies to anyone working in either a paid employed role or as a volunteer.

Coaches, Officials & Volunteers

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport.
- Place the well being and safety of the participant above the development of performance. Follow all guidelines laid down by the BCU and hold appropriate insurance cover.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, especially children, based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Coaches should hold up to date nationally recognised BCU coaching qualifications.
- Ensure the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
- At the outset clarify with participants, and where appropriate their parents, exactly what is expected of them and what participants are entitled to expect from the coach.
- Cooperate fully with other specialists e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists in the best interests of the participants.
- Always promote the positive aspects of the sport e.g. fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- Should not be under the influence of drink, drugs or any substance other than prescribed medication.
- Consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Be acutely aware of the power that a coach develops with participants and avoid any intimacy (sexual or otherwise).
- Be acutely aware of situations with participants that could be construed as compromising and actions that others could perceive as being outside the coaching role.
- Report any concerns within the area of Child Protection/ Vulnerable Adults in confidence and without delay to the appropriate person.
- At no time make comment to the media. The BCU Press Officer should be made aware of any media interest in relation to Child Protection or Vulnerable Adults.

In the event of an allegation of improper behaviour being made, the personal conduct and professional behaviour of the coach, official or volunteer will be very important evidence. For abuse to take place, particularly sexual abuse, the victim and perpetrator(s) will generally be alone and away from public view. Therefore the best practice is to avoid all situations in which behaviour cannot be observed. Child and vulnerable adult protection is about putting in place the best possible practices and procedures. This will protect not only the child or vulnerable adult but also you, the coach, official or volunteer. If you have any comments on this guideline or require any further support or guidance relating to children and young people please contact the Club Welfare Officer or the BCU Child Protection Officer.