



Volleyball England  
Code of Conduct for Coaches  
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## Introduction

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to address and set the expected behaviour of coaches/leaders/tutors in Volleyball England and to inform and protect members of the public with whom they work.

Coaches are expected to:

- a) Maintain responsible association with Volleyball England through annual registration or licensing
- b) Continue personal and professional growth, remaining current on new developments in the field through continuing education
- c) Use their knowledge and professional expertise for the benefit of the people they serve
- d) Always strive to be truthful and present themselves, players, colleagues or other professionals in a positive light
- e) Respect the integrity, rights to confidentiality and protect the welfare of people they are working with
- f) Avoid discrimination in all of its forms

Volleyball England has produced a Child Protection Policy and all persons working with or in contact with children under the auspices of Volleyball England will be subject to this policy.

To maximise the benefits and minimise the risks to players, coaches must attain a high level of competence through appropriate qualifications and a commitment to ongoing training that ensures safe and correct practice.

This code:

- is a constituent part of a policy and procedure for dealing with allegations and complaints
- is used as the definitive guide and benchmark measure of coaching practice in determining any need for sanctions against a coach

Careless statements, verbal and written, and/or commitments made could be embarrassing and ultimately harmful to you personally and to Volleyball England.

It is important that all coaches, leaders and tutors adhere to the principles and guidelines presented in this Code of Conduct and make them part of your work in volleyball.

Breaches of this Code will be dealt with in the appropriate way by the Safeguarding Action Group and/or the Coaching Commission.

## Principles

| <b>Principle</b> | <b>Statement</b>   | <b>Actions</b>  |
|------------------|--|---|
| Rights           | Coaches must respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assist in the creation of an environment where every individual has the opportunity to participate in a sport or activity of their choice</li><li>• Create and maintain an environment free of fear and harassment</li><li>• Recognise the right of all athletes to be treated as individuals</li><li>• Respect the rights of others to hold values, attitudes and opinions that differ from their own</li><li>• Do not engage in discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, language, socio-economic status</li><li>• Be aware of academic pressures placed on student athletes and be flexible in your conduct of training sessions and matches</li></ul> |

| <b>Principle</b>                              | <b>Statement</b>  | <b>Actions</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| Relationships                                 | <p>Coaches must develop a relationship with athletes (and others) based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect.</p> <p>Coaches must show respect for all officials before, during and after the match. If there is any complaint, this must be put in writing and sent to Volleyball England.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All relationships with coaching staff and athletes will be maintained on a professional and confidential basis</li> <li>• Must not engage in behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse or harassment (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, bullying)</li> <li>• Must take action if they have a concern about the behaviour of an adult towards a child by reporting any suspected cases of abuse according to the Volleyball England Child Protection Policies</li> <li>• Direct comments or criticism relative to the performance, not the athlete</li> <li>• Strive to develop individual and team respect for the ability of opponents</li> <li>• Encourage athletes to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance in training, participation and competition</li> <li>• Comply with regulations concerning transfer of players</li> <li>• Show respect to officials in front of players at all times</li> <li>• Must not tolerate criticism from players of the officials and encourage them to focus on their own game.</li> <li>• Observe the rules of the game and encourage athletes to adhere to the spirit of the rules</li> </ul> |
| Responsibilities<br><i>Personal Standards</i> | Coaches must demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistently display high personal standards in the use of language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation</li> <li>• Project a favourable image of volleyball and of coaching</li> <li>• Must be fair, honest and considerate to athletes and to others involved in their sport</li> </ul>  |

| Principle   | Statement  | Actions   |
|---|--|---|
| Responsibilities<br><i>Professional Standards</i> | <p>To maximise benefits and minimise the risks to athletes.</p> <p>Coaches must attain a high level of competence through formal qualifications and commit to ongoing personal development to ensure continuing safe and correct practice.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a commitment to provide a quality service to athletes</li> <li>• Provide a safe environment that maximises benefits and minimises risks to athletes in achieving their goals</li> <li>• Ensure that all activities are suitable for the age, experience and ability of the athletes</li> <li>• Educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment, and to do my best to ensure that all facilities and equipment meet safety standards and that they are age/ability appropriate</li> <li>• Do not tolerate the use of performance-enhancing drugs</li> <li>• Consider the athlete's future health and well being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athlete's ability to continue competing or training, and seek professional medical opinions to serve as a basis for my decisions</li> <li>• Plan to be present at all practices and competitions and, when unable to attend, organise knowledgeable and safe supervision</li> <li>• Contribute to the development of coaching as a profession by exchanging knowledge and ideas with others</li> <li>• Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness</li> </ul> |