

CASTLEKNOCK CELTIC CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COACHES

Fair Play is the guiding principle of the FAI's Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. It states that "All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play". Ireland has contributed and is committed to the European Code of Sports Ethics, which defines fair play as: "much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing with the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving".

Castleknock Celtic FC fully supports the above and sets out herein its Code of Practice for Coaches (condensed and full versions) and Codes of Conduct for Parents and Children

PRELIMINARY

- Children's involvement in soccer should be an enjoyable experience.
- The safety of children should always be the paramount concern of all adults responsible for providing soccer opportunities at whatever level that adult may be involved. The appropriateness of the experience provided for children in soccer should be determined by and based on a child-centred ethos which places the needs of the child at the centre of any activity undertaken.
- Coaches/managers/volunteers should be properly recruited and managed with appropriate training made available to them. All adults involved in soccer have a responsibility to be aware of child protection as an issue.
- Castleknock Celtic recognises and accepts that in all matters concerning Child Protection, the welfare and protection of our underage players is a priority.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COACHES (Condensed Version)

1. **LOCO PARENTIS:** A coach has a duty of care (loco-parentis) to players, in particular to those aged 17 and under. You must act with due diligence, and offer the same protection, and support that any reasonable parent would, appropriate to the players' ages.
2. **MOL AN OIGE:** Be generous with your praise when it is deserved. "Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí".
3. **NO RIDICULE:** Be conscious of improving the self-esteem of the players. Never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a match. If criticism of a player's performance is required, ensure it is balanced and not over-critical in front of other players.
4. **LIMIT YOUR DEMANDS:** Be reasonable in your demands on the players' time, energy and enthusiasm as they will have other interests and demands on their time.
5. **PARTICIPATION:** Ensure all players participate in matches. In graded age-group teams, players require and deserve equal time. This must be implemented, even in non-competitive games or games in tournaments abroad. Abide by the FAI guidelines if travelling at home or abroad with players.
6. **PLAYING FOR FUN:** Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that learning skills and playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition - Winning is not the only objective.
7. **NO FOUL PLAY:** Insist on fair and disciplined play. Do not tolerate foul play, fighting or foul language. Be prepared to discipline an offending player. Ensure that all your players know that bullying whether verbal or physical will not be tolerated. Players fined by the league must pay the fines themselves.
8. **TWO DEEP:** Ensure that you never find yourself alone with a player. If you need to speak to a player about his/her behaviour/quality of play, do so in the view of others. Ensure 'two deep' supervision.
9. **TRANSPORTING KIDS:** Coaches are not responsible for bringing players to/from training or matches. Parents should organise this between themselves. If you do offer to do this and are appropriately insured, all players should be carried in the back of the car and never on their own.

10. FOREIGN TRAVEL: Familiarise yourself with the guidelines for away travel to tournaments in other locations where overnight stays are a requirement and advise the club officials of your intentions well in advance of trip.
11. ENCOURAGE: Encourage young players to develop basic skills and sportsmanship. Avoid over-specialisation in positional play during their formative years.
12. SAFE & ENJOYABLE: Create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to train and play.
13. RESPECT: Remember that young people need a coach whom they can respect. Encourage respectfulness in young people by treating them with respect. Develop their respectfulness for the ability of the opposing team, coach and the judgement of the referee.
14. REFEREE: Never criticise the referee or assistant referee during or after a match in front of players or spectators. Respect the match officials and if they have made decisions which require clarification discuss the problems courteously and away from players.
15. FIRST AID: Ensure that proper equipment and facilities are available at all times, including a First Aid kit and appoint a suitable adult that can be trained in First Aid, if you are unable to do so yourself.
16. INJURIES: Attend to injured player (see Coach's detailed guidelines below). Seek medical advice, where necessary, to determine when an injured player is ready to play again. Ensure you are familiar with any medical conditions that a player might have by liaising with parents. Advise parents if a player sustains an injury at training or during a match. Be especially vigilant with regard to head injuries.
17. UPSKILLING: Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and methods, and on the development of young players.
18. Garda Vetting is mandatory and a copy of your letter of clearance when received from the FAI has to be given to the Children's Officer. All coaches must complete a Child Welfare Course. Details of courses and vetting application forms are available on www.fai.ie.
19. LINKS TO OTHER COACHES: Develop a positive working relationship with other coaches within your team's age group and work together to ensure appropriate movement of players according to their ability.
20. DISREPUTE: Do not bring the club into disrepute by your actions/conduct on or off the playing field.
21. Ensure that the players and their parents are familiar with Castleknock Celtic's Codes of Conduct and are reminded of it on an ongoing basis.

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by Castleknock Celtic's Code of Practice for Coaches (see full version)

Coach Signature: _____

Coach Name (Block Capitals): _____

Team: _____

Date: _____