



## Code of Ethics

**Remember the children, they are our first priority. A smile at the end of a game, knowing that the team succeeds together and that the players are leaving the gym with a good feeling, this is worth much more than any win.**

### Our objectives for this year are:

- Work to ensure all players enjoy the game
- Improve the skill level of all the players
- Improve the skill level of coaches
- Foster a fair Play environment
- Making Basketball fun and challenging is our number one priority.

### Young People's Sport

Adults, Those who interact with children in sport should do so with integrity and respect for the child. There is a danger that sporting contexts can be used to exploit or undermine children. All adult actions in sport should be guided by what is best for the child and in the context of quality, open working relationships.

Bullying Verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse of any kind is unacceptable within sport.

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".

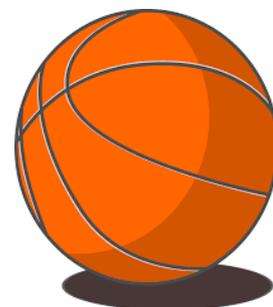
It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing in the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving.

Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. A Child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place. Too often competitive demands are placed on children too early and results in excessive levels of pressure on them and as a consequence, high levels of dropout from sport.

All children should be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children with disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated way, thus allowing them to participate to their potential alongside other children.

Leaders in children's sport should strive to create a positive environment for the children in their care. They have an overall responsibility to take the steps necessary to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided.

Guidelines for Young Players: the club wishes to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in the sport. Young players deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. These players have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities which they must accept.



### **Young players are entitled to**

1. Be happy, have fun and enjoy our sport
2. Be treated with dignity and respect
3. To have the support of the adults within the sport
4. To be safe and to feel safe
5. To say No where they deem appropriate
6. To get help against bullies
7. To be listened to and to be believed.
8. To protect their own bodies and to refuse inappropriate touches

### **Young players should always**

1. Treat all coaches, managers, selectors, club and tournament organisers and officials with respect.
2. Abide by the rules set down by Coaches and team managers.
3. Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the game of Basketball into disrepute.
4. Play fairly at all times, do their best
5. Respect team members, even when things go wrong
6. Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat
7. Talk to the club children's officer if they have any problems

### **Young players should never**

1. Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage on or off the court, to isolate another player.
2. Pass on gossip, make false allegations or spread rumours against other players or adults.
3. Cheat or lie
4. Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
5. Shout or argue with officials, coaches, selectors, team mates or opponents
6. Harm team members, opponents or their property
7. Take banned substances
8. Keep information secret, especially if they or others have been caused harm

### **Guidelines for Parents**

Navan Cougars BC is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all juvenile young players. Our first priority is the welfare of young players and we are committed to providing an environment, which will allow participants to perform to their best ability, free from bullying and intimidation. We also have a duty of care for volunteers working with young players on behalf of the organisation.



### **Parents should**

- Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, officials and organisers
- Encourage your child to play by the rules
- Always behave responsibly on the side-lines and do not seek to unfairly affect the game on court or the player on court
- Take care not to expose any young player, intentionally or unintentionally, to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- Always recognise the value and importance of the volunteers who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for your child
- Respect referees, coaches, organisers and other players
- Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of referees, coaches or organisers
- Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides
- Encourage mutual respect for team mates and opponents
- Ensure that their children are collected at the appointed times
- Check transport plans and be happy with the arrangements
- Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive and bullying behaviour in all its forms

### **Policy for Officials: (including all technical members)**

Navan Cougars BC recognises the key role coaches, referees, selectors and team managers play in the lives of children in sport.

All Technical members should have as their first priority the children's safety and enjoyment of the sport and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations.

Officials must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability. Navan Cougars BC will take all reasonable steps to ensure that people working with young people in basketball are suitable and appropriately qualified. Assessment procedures are therefore necessary and these procedures apply to all persons, paid or unpaid, with substantial access to young people.

- An Official working with a juvenile children's team(s) has a duty of care.
- An Official must act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of sport and of basketball and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct.
- The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must be actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.
- Remember your behaviour to players, other officials, and opponents will have an effect on the players in your care.



- Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or for losing a game.
- Each child deserves equal time and attention. All young players are entitled to respect.
- Care must be taken not to expose a child intentionally or unintentionally embarrassment.
- Never punish a mistake - by verbal means, physical means, or exclusion.
- Insist that players in your care respect the rules of the game. Insist on fair play and ensure that your players know that you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.
- Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition. Never make winning the only objective.
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other coaches and avoid criticism of fellow officials.
- It is important to realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted by the participant or by outsiders.
- Navan Cougars BC are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with players. It is NOT acceptable for officials to involve young players in their personal life or to interact with them online using social media.
- Adults should ensure they do not make reference online to any players through social media without their consent and prior agreement that they are doing so on behalf of the club. This includes all photos, videos and media material.
- Avoid working alone and ensure there is adequate supervision for all activities.