

Code of Conduct Guideline Willow Park FC

1] Aims and Objectives

- 1 To provide a football education for our young players that places an emphasis on their development as a player.
- 2 To provide a happy, fun, safe environment in which our young players are free to thrive.
- 3 To provide a pathway for our young players to progress to representative youth football, to our U19 and senior team, and to professional football at home and abroad in accordance with their wishes and abilities.
- 4 To teach our players to play the game with discipline, respect and in Fair Play.
- 5 To arrange football matches and training for each of the playing members of the Club.
- 6 Provide facilities that in the local community that are accessible to all
- 7 Promote the social inclusion of all members of our community regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

2] Code of Conduct for Managers/Coaches

- 1 Managers/Coaches will show respect for all players and officials and lead by example.
- 2 Be fully prepared for coaching sessions and matches. (Including First-Aid, Kit, etc.).
- 3 Ensure a safe environment for learning and development.
- 4 Managers/Coaches to keep themselves up to date with new ideas on coaching and development.
- 5 Encourage each player in terms of self-discipline, good behaviour and punctuality.
- 6 Be self-critical and not afraid to seek assistance.
- 7 Be familiar with the Willow Park Football Club Child Protection Guidelines.
- 8 Liaise with parents.
- 9 Ensure that all players are aware that all forms of bullying will not be tolerated.
- 10 Be generous with your praise when it is deserved.
- 11 Managers/Coaches must always display high standards of behaviour and appearance.

All above is superceded by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as directed by The Irish Sports Council and supported by the FAI. See back of booklet for further information.

3] Code of Conduct for Players

- 1 Always show respect for team-mates, managers/coaches, opponents and officials.
- 2 Respect the managers/coaches decisions
- 3 Always turn up on time for matches and training.
- 4 Always play to win but accept defeat like proper sportsmen.
- 5 Always have commitment to your club and pride in your performance.
- 6 Ensure that your lifestyle helps rather than hinders your progress.
- 7 Pay your subs.
- 8 Arrive for training and matches with the proper gear and boots.
- 9 Listen to advice given and ask questions if you don't understand.
- 10 Help out with equipment before and after matches and training.
- 11 Let the manager know, as soon as possible, if you are injured or sick.
- 12 Bullying will not be tolerated and if you feel you are being bullied feel safe to tell the manager.
- 13 Enjoy playing and training with Willow Park F.C.

All above is superceded by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as directed by The Irish Sports Council and supported by the FAI. See back of booklet for further information.

4] Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

- 1 Always show respect for all players, opponents, managers/coaches and officials.
- 2 Have realistic expectations for your son/daughter and don't put him/her under undue pressure.
- 3 Ensure that your son/daughter arrives on time for training and matches and that safe arrangements are in place for getting your son/daughter home afterwards.
- 4 Leave coaching to the coaches.
- 5 Respect the managers/coaches decisions.
- 6 Assist when asked.
- 7 Accept disappointment, praise good work and refrain from criticising.
- 8 Support the club's fund-raising activities where possible.
- 9 If your son/daughter requires hospital treatment a parent must attend.
- 10 Emphasise skill development and practice over winning and how they benefit your child (and other children/players).

All above is superceded by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as directed by The Irish Sports Council and supported by the FAI. See back of booklet for further information.

5] Child Protection Policy

Willow Park F.C. believes that concern for the general well-being and welfare of all children and young persons under its care is of paramount importance in developing the young players of the future.

The club recognises the responsibilities and trust that is placed on it by all players and their families.

It will seek to respond to that responsibility by encouraging best practice in Child Protection matters and encourage everyone involved in the club to recognise this.

The protection of the child must be the first priority of all its members.

All Managers/Coaches must know the club's policy and procedures, be encouraged to listen to concerns of players and take their complaints seriously.

All current and potential Managers/Coaches shall consent to be screened as to their suitability to work with children as specified by the FAI Child Protection guidelines.

Willow Park F.C. will emphasise to all members that they have a duty to report to the designated person any concerns they have over the possible abuse of children. This duty also applies to concerns they might have about a colleague.

The Club will provide guidance to anyone who makes a report of suspected abuse and they will be fully supported when voicing these concerns.

6] Definition of Child Abuse

Neglect: The neglect of a child or the failure to protect a child from any kind of danger including exposure to cold and rain.

Physical Abuse: Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child where a person involves a child in any activity that leads to their own or others sexual gratification. This might involve intercourse, touching, exposure of sexual organs, showing of pornographic material or talking in an erotic way.

Emotional Abuse: Failure to exhibit care and attention, particularly where a child is threatened, taunted or shouted at and as a consequence leads to loss of self-esteem and confidence. Similarly, undermining a child by ignoring effort or progress.

7] Guidance to Promote Good Practice

The following guidelines are suggested to Managers/Coaches in an attempt to reduce situations, which could lead to the abuse of children as well as attempting to protect those who are working with children and young people.

- Always try to work with children and young people in the open and public view.
- With very young children, where possible, try to encourage parents to take responsibility for their children in the changing rooms.
- It is possible that a Manager/Coach might have to help young children with undressing, changing and dressing. Such tasks should only be carried out after discussion and consent of the player and parents.
- Always ensure Managers/Coaches work in pairs when children have to be supervised in the changing rooms.
- Always try to develop a climate, which discourages the criticising of those who are seen as having less ability.
- Always try to take steps to challenge bullying and always listen to complaints from team members who feel that they are being bullied.
- Always try to avoid being alone in a car with a child/young person. Sometimes this will be unavoidable but try to make sure the child/young person sits in the back of the car.
- Always try to avoid taking a child/young person home with you, especially if they would be alone with a Manager/Coach.
- It is advisable that Managers/Coaches identify who will be collecting a child/young person following a match or training session.
- Managers/Coaches should take steps to know who will care for a child/young person if his parents are not at home when the child is returned home following a match or training session.

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8] Anti-Bullying Policy

It is vital that everyone within the club understands that Bullying will not be tolerated and that the following conditions must be met. Willow Park FC is committed to providing an environment free of any kind of bullying or harassment. The Club at the highest level will not tolerate bullying or harassment and will take appropriate steps to resolve any problems that may occur.

The club recognises the stress and anxiety caused by harassment and bullying and has always been committed to ensuring that members have an environment which is free from harassment and bullying. Accordingly, the Club wishes to assure all members that harassment or bullying of any kind, including sexual harassment, will not be tolerated. **Disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the club, may be taken against any member found guilty of such conduct.** In addition, the Club has a legal obligation to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to prevent harassment and bullying.

In being confronted with a possible case of bullying all Managers/Coaches must be prepared to:

- Take the problem seriously.
- Investigate the incident.
- Talk to the bullies and victims separately.
- Decide on an appropriate action such as:
- Obtain an apology from the bully to victim.
- Inform parents of the bully.
- Encourage/support the bully to change his/her behaviour.
- Impose sanctions against bullies up to and including dismissal.

9] Child Protection Advice for Players

You are entitled to:

- Be safe
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Experience competition and the desire to win as a positive and healthy outcome of striving for best performance
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy soccer
- Comment and make suggestions in an appropriate and constructive manner
- Be listened to
- Be believed

MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO EXPRESS CONCERNS AND MAKE COMPLAINTS IN AN APPROPRIATE WAY AND HAVE THESE DEALT WITH THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

IMPORTANT: Willow Park FC's Children's Officer is Michael Doolin, he can be contacted on 087 256 3855 or through the club secretary.

10] For further information see:

Code of Ethics & Good practice for Children's Sport, The Irish Sports Council 2001.

Our Duty to Care, Department of Health & Children, 2002.

Children First, National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children 1999.

Or contact: FAI at info@fai.ie
childwelfare@fai.ie
www.fai.ie/fai/about/policy.htm