

The Code for Athletes

As an athlete, you have rights and responsibilities. The following code will help identify these for you. This is your Code, whatever your ability or wherever you take part in Rugby League. You should follow the code and encourage others to do so too.

This Code of Conduct sets out expected standards of behaviour for your role within RLI. It should be read in conjunction with the Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and any other Rules of RLI.

In our sport you should:

- Be happy, have fun and enjoy taking part and being involved in our sport
- Feel safe and secure when you are taking part in our sport
- Be listened to and have a chance to reply
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Have a voice in the decisions that affect you within the Club and Rugby League Ireland

Your responsibilities are to:

- Treat leaders, coaches, teachers, team managers, officials and parents with dignity and respect
- Respect other athletes and your opponents
- Be part of the team and respect and support other team members both when they do well and when things go wrong
- Never bully or use bullying actions against another person; you should never hurt other team members, athletes or your opponent, this includes never taking/damaging their property, never spreading rumours or telling lies about other young people or adults
- Take part in your sport without cheating; you are responsible for not cheating and must not allow others to force you to cheat
- Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language. Do not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Behave in a manner that is respectful towards your club, your region and RLI
- Never use violence or bad language; do not shout or argue with leaders, teammates or opposing participants
- Show integrity and professionalism in your dealings with others.
- Set at a level for what you want to achieve with your parent and coach. You can then understand the commitment and attendance needed to achieve your goals
- Not take, or allow others to make you take, banned substances to improve your performance
- Keep to rules and guidelines set by Rugby League Ireland, the region and your club and make sure you understand the rules
- Understand the complaints and disciplinary process; follow the proper procedure if you feel unjustly treated and that any complaint/disciplinary matter will be dealt with effectively and confidentially

By taking part and becoming a member of RLI you are agreeing to your Code of Conduct. Breaking this code of conduct may result in a complaint or disciplinary action through the Rugby League Ireland disciplinary and complaints process.

The Code for Coaches

As a coach in our sport you have an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of your athletes. You, and any other person working with you should abide by the Codes of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct sets out expected standards of behaviour for your role within RLI. It should be read in conjunction with the Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and any other Rules of RLI.

You should:

- Be eligible to work in a regulated activity or position
- Understand and ensure the welfare and well-being of your athletes is paramount
- Be qualified for your role and keep up-to date with knowledge and skills appropriate to your position
- Understand the complaints and disciplinary process; follow the proper procedure if you feel unjustly treated and that any complaint/disciplinary matter will be dealt with effectively and confidentially
- Abide by the club and Rugby League Ireland safeguarding policies and rules
- Ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for your athletes
- Planning and preparing for sessions;
- Understanding your athletes developmental needs and being aware of how athletes may be physically and psychologically affected
- Having consent and accessible emergency contact details for each athlete
- Being positive in your interactions with all RLI members
- Setting appropriate and realistic goals
- Engaging positively with parents/carers letting them know how they can help and what you expect from parents (where applicable)
- Treating each young person equally and fairly; challenging bullying behaviour
- Keep attendance records

Coaches must:

- Not expose an athlete to criticism, hostility or sarcasm
- Not swear at, make fun of, shout unnecessarily or argue with an athlete, coach, match official
- Be aware of a young person's sensitivity to body image
- Never use physical punishment or force
- Correct mistakes without using any form of punishment, exclusion or humiliation
- Never use banned substances
- Not engage in behaviour that is inappropriate e.g., bullying behaviour, physical punishment or force

As a coach your responsibilities are to:

- Treat leaders, coaches, teachers, team managers, officials and athletes with dignity and respect
- Act as a role model for athletes by promoting a healthy lifestyle and encouraging a positive approach to sport
- Maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and respectful behaviour in any activity related to the club or RLI
- Co-operate with the recommendations from medical and ancillary practitioners concerning the health and well-being of athletes. As a coach you should ensure any athletes is medically fit to participate in the activity; you may request a certificate of medical fitness to ensure safe or continued participation
- Act only within your qualifications and competence; you should not carry out medical testing, therapy or provide advice if you are not qualified to do so; any such activity must only be with the assent of the athletes and the consent of a parent/carer (where applicable)
- Keep any personal or medical information relating to a athletes strictly confidential unless required to pass this on in the best interests of the young person
- Ensure to maintain a healthy, positive and professional relationship with all athletes, leaders and match officials

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The Code for Leaders

(Committee Members, Team Managers, Other helpers)

As a leader you have an opportunity to have a positive impact on the lives of athletes involved in sport. You have volunteered your time and effort and you, and any other person working with you should abide by the Codes of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct sets out expected standards of behaviour for your role within RLI. It should be read in conjunction with the Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and any other Rules of RLI.

You should

- Be eligible to work in a regulated activity or position
- Understand and ensure the welfare and well-being of an athlete is paramount
- Be qualified for your role and keep up-to date with knowledge and skills appropriate to your position
- Abide by club and RLI's safeguarding policies and rules
- Support the ethos of the club, region and RLI
- Understand the complaints and disciplinary process; follow the proper procedure if you feel unjustly treated and that any complaint/disciplinary matter will be dealt with effectively and confidentially
- Ensure a safe and fun environment for young people you are responsible for
- Be available for specified duties if and when required;
- Have an awareness of and respect leaders and other adults and their roles
- Promote that participation in sport for children and young people is fun, safe, fair and in the Spirit of Sport
- Abide by the procedures and policies regarding the use of mobile phones, any type of camera and videoing equipment

Leaders must:

- Not expose an athlete to criticism, hostility or sarcasm
- Not swear at, make fun of, shout unnecessarily or argue with an athlete, coach, match official
- Be aware of a young person's sensitivity to body image
- Never use physical punishment or force
- Correct mistakes without using any form of punishment, exclusion or humiliation
- Never use banned substances
- Not engage in behaviour that is inappropriate e.g. bullying behaviour
- Ensure to maintain a healthy, positive and professional relationship with all athletes.

As a leader your responsibilities are to:

- Treat leaders, coaches, teachers, team managers, officials and athletes with dignity and respect
- Act as a role model for athletes by promoting a healthy lifestyle and encouraging a positive approach to sport
- Maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and respectful behaviour in any activity related to the club, region or RLI
- Co-operate with the recommendations from medical and ancillary practitioners concerning the health and well-being of athletes
- Act only within your qualifications and competence within your assigned role
- Keep any personal or medical information relating to an athlete strictly confidential unless required to pass this on in the best interests of the athlete
- Never apply undue influence or pressure on an athlete for your own personal benefit or reward

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The Code for Match Officials

As a Match Official you have an opportunity to have a positive impact on the lives of athletes involved in sport. You have volunteered your time and effort and you, and any other person working with you should abide by the Codes of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct sets out expected standards of behaviour for your role within RLI. It should be read in conjunction with the Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and any other Rules of RLI.

You should

- Be eligible to work in a regulated activity or position
- Understand and ensure the welfare and well-being of an athlete is paramount
- Be qualified for your role and keep up-to date with knowledge and skills appropriate to your position
- Abide by RLI's safeguarding policies and rules
- Support the ethos of RLI
- Understand the complaints and disciplinary process; follow the proper procedure if you feel unjustly treated and that any complaint/disciplinary matter will be dealt with effectively and confidentially
- Ensure a safe and fun environment for athletes and young people you are responsible for
- Be available for specified duties if and when required;
- Have an awareness of and respect leaders and other adults and their roles
- Abide by the procedures and policies regarding the use of mobile phones, any type of camera and videoing equipment

Match Officials must:

- Not expose an athlete to criticism, hostility or sarcasm
- Not swear at, make fun of, shout unnecessarily or argue with all athletes, coaches and leaders
- Never use physical punishment or force
- Correct mistakes without using any form of punishment, exclusion or humiliation
- Never use banned substances
- Not engage in behaviour that is inappropriate e.g. bullying behaviour
- Ensure to maintain a healthy, positive and professional relationship with all athletes, coaches and leaders

As a Match Official your responsibilities are to:

- Treat leaders, coaches, teachers, team managers, officials and athletes with dignity and respect
- Co-operate with other Officials in the provision of fair and equitable conditions for the conduct of RLI events under the relevant rules of competition, thereby offering all participants every opportunity to achieve their own personal goals and aspirations.
- Act in an impartial, decisive but friendly manner in your interactions with other Officials, Competitors, Coaches and Spectators, respecting the right of others.
- Keep fully up to date with any changes in the relevant competition rules and attend any officiating trainings where appropriate.
- Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of the tasks assigned to you.
- Never condone or engage in violations of the rules of competition
- Act in a manner that will bring credit to RLI and yourself both within and outside the RLI community

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