

Belfast Canoe Club



CODE OF CONDUCT for CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Belfast Canoe Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with any member of the club committee. Contact details of committee members can be found at:

www.belfastcanoecub.org or email belfastcanoecub@gmail.com

You also contact the members directly:

Child Protection Officer: safeguarding@belfastcanoecub.org

Chairperson: chairperson@belfastcanoecub.org

Sports clubs for young people should offer a positive experience where they can learn new things in a safe and positive environment.

As a member of Belfast Canoe Club, you are expected to abide by the following junior code of practice:

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be loyal and give their friends a second chance.
- Be friendly and particularly welcoming to new members.
- Be supportive and committed to other team members, offer comfort when required.
- Not get involved in inappropriate peer pressure and push others into something they do not want to do.
- Keep within the defined boundary of the paddling/coaching area.
- Behave and listen to all instructions from the coach. Paddle within the rules and respect the coaches, club members and other paddlers.
- Take care of equipment owned by the club.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Refrain from the use of bad language or racial/sectarian references. This includes bullying using technologies like social media or texting.
- Refrain from bullying or persistent use of rough and dangerous paddling. This includes intentional ramming and tipping of boats.

- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or river leader if they are going to be late.
- Members must wear suitable equipment when on or near the water:
 - BC approved Buoyancy Aid*
 - Appropriate Clothing (coach will inspect clothing prior to session)
 - Appropriate foot wear
 - A BC Approved Helmet* must be worn at all times on moving water unless specifically exempted by the Coach in charge.

*Approved equipment is available from the club.

- Members must pay any fees for training or events promptly.
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke on club activities or whilst representing the club at competitions.
- Junior members are not allowed to consume, or be under influence of, alcohol or drugs of any kind on club activities or whilst representing the club, except medically prescribed drugs with knowledge and permission of the coach in charge.
- Show respect to other youth members/leaders and show team spirit.
- Keep themselves safe.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations for youth members.
- Paddle fairly and be trustworthy.
- Respect officials and accept decisions.
- Show appropriate loyalty and be gracious in defeat.
- Challenge or report the bullying of your peers.
- Respect opponents.
- Not cheat or be violent/aggressive.
- Not use violence.
- Make your club a **fun** place to be.

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be listened to.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Privacy.
- Enjoy your sport in a protective environment.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.

- Be protected from abuse by other member or outside sources.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed.
- Ask for help.

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be addressed by the immediate coach and reported verbally to the designated person. Persistent or dangerous misbehaviour will result in dismissal from the club/sport. Parents will be informed at all stages.

Dismissals can be appealed by the member with final decisions taken by the club committee or referred to the governing body depending on the disciplinary procedures within the sport.