

Belfast Canoe Club



CODE OF CONDUCT – PADDLERS INCLUDING 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 the child protection coordinator

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 code of practice:

PADDLERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be aware of the safety guidance provided and take appropriate responsibility for you actions
- In particular:
 - Avoid unnecessary immersion in rivers
 - Protect any cuts or abrasions with waterproof plasters and show them to the coach in charge.
 - Wear appropriate footwear and paddling kit for the conditions
 - Respect the sensitivities and right to privacy of others when changing
 - Wash or clean hands thoroughly before contact with food
 - Shower at the earliest opportunity after paddling
 - Never paddle unless you have access to warm dry clothing and towel
 - Remember sun protection in summer
- Take care of their own property which is taken canoeing at their own risk. Paddlers who wear glasses (including sunglasses) must ensure they are secured in case of capsize. Electronic items e.g. phones, car keys, etc. should only be taken canoeing if carried in a suitable waterproof container secured to the paddler and are often better left at home!
- 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.
- Be aware of, and keep within the defined boundary of the paddling/coaching area.
- Behave and listen to all instructions from the coach. Play within the rules and respect the official and their decisions.
- 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, racial/sectarian references, or bullying in any form including use of social media or texting.
- Refrain from rough or dangerous play.
- Keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Wear suitable kit including buoyancy aid on the water and helmet for any rough water paddling, as agreed with the coach in charge.
- 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 alcohol or drugs of any kind on club activities or whilst representing the club.
- Show respect to other members/leaders and show team spirit.
- Keep themselves safe.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations.
- Play 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 misbehaviour will result in dismissal from the club/sport. Parents will be informed at all stages.

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