



## **DORSET TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**



Table Tennis England and Dorset County Table Tennis Association expect that everyone involved with table tennis will be respected, valued and has the right to be protected from any form of abuse, as a qualified Table Tennis coach, you are expected to adhere to this code of conduct at all times.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child, you have a responsibility to report your concerns and/or seek advice from the Safeguarding and Ethics Manager. Coaches must **not** carry out investigations into any concerns.

### **1. Respect**

Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination.

Table Tennis coaches must:

- 1.1. Treat everyone fairly and equally, within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, disability, ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, political persuasion, socio-economic status, athletic potential, marital status, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.

### **2. Relationships**

Developing professional relationships is central to the role of an effective coach. Coaches must act with integrity and are expected to be honest, sincere and honourable in their relationships with participants and others.

Table Tennis coaches must:

- 2.1. Accept responsibility for participants' conduct and challenge inappropriate behaviour, including the use of foul or abusive language
- 2.2. Encourage participants to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance whether in training, competing or in life in general
- 2.3. Abide by the Table Tennis England E-Safety Guidelines and should be transparent in the use of social media to communicate with athletes
- 2.4. Follow the appropriate welfare guidelines and take the necessary actions if there is a concern over the wellbeing of an athlete.

Table Tennis coaches must not:

- 2.5. Engage in any relationship of a sexual nature with a participant for whom they are responsible. This can include flirting or use of inappropriate gestures and/or language
- 2.6. Ridicule, embarrass, bully or abuse a participant or reduce them to tears as a coaching method.

### **3. Personal Standards**

Table Tennis coaches are expected to demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times. Coaches are expected to act as a role model for athletes at all times.

Table Tennis coaches must:

- 3.1. Display high levels of punctuality, dress, language and preparation at all times
- 3.2. Engage with and support any individuals who are involved in the development of athletes
- 3.3. Recognise personal limitations and be prepared to pass athletes on to more capable coaches to ensure the continued development of the athlete

Table Tennis coaches must not:

- 3.4. Criticise fellow coaches; either privately or publicly
- 3.5. Drink alcohol or use recreational drugs whilst in the company of athletes, including when travelling
- 3.6. Drink alcohol or use recreational drugs before or during coaching sessions or events
- 3.7. Smoke in front of participants

#### **4. Professional Responsibilities**

Coaches should be well-prepared and possess up-to-date knowledge of Table Tennis so as to maximise the benefits and minimise risk to the athletes. Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for the image and integrity of the sport and coaching profession and their actions should reflect this.

Table Tennis coaches must:

- 4.1. Hold a coaching licence and keep credentials up to date in order to maintain the validity of that licence
- 4.2. Ensure that when entering into any agreements with players, teams, groups, clubs, schools or any other employer the nature of the agreement is understood and agreed by all parties
- 4.3. Provide a safe and secure environment for training and competition, minimising any risks to athletes
- 4.4. Ensure that player information and medical details are available at all times
- 4.5. Work in a publicly open environment and avoid situations where they are working alone and unobserved with a young person
- 4.6. Ensure that any form of physical contact with athletes is appropriate to the situation and is absolutely necessary. Coaches must ask permission of the participant and explain what they are doing and why the physical contact is necessary
- 4.7. Follow good practice guidelines regarding safeguarding children and young people. This includes:
  - 4.7.1. Not inviting athletes to their home
  - 4.7.2. Not taking children alone on car journeys
  - 4.7.3. Not being left in an enclosed or private space with athletes unless accompanied or in an emergency
- 4.8. Abide by all Table Tennis England policy documents and guidelines including:
  - 4.8.1. A Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines
  - 4.8.2. B Equality Policy
  - 4.8.3. C DBS Policy and Guidelines
  - 4.8.4. D Photography Guidelines

Table Tennis coaches must not:

- 4.9. Misrepresent the level of qualifications and should seek opportunities to update their knowledge and develop their skills.

## **5. Fair Play**

Coaches and athletes alike should abide by the principles of fair play during training and competition. All those involved in sport should recognise the importance of fairness, a respectful attitude and appropriate conduct when involved in Table Tennis activities.

Table Tennis coaches must:

- 5.1. Always encourage and actively support participants to abide by the rules of Table Tennis
- 5.2. Educate participants on the issues around taking drugs in sport and never condone the use of performance enhancing drugs
- 5.3. Always treat opponents and officials with respect both when winning and in defeat and always encourage participants to do the same
- 5.4. Maintain dignity in all circumstances, and demonstrate self-control.

## **6. Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

Table Tennis England qualified coaches are expected to abide by the requirements of the Code of Conduct. Any coaches in breach of the Code of Conduct will give rise to disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the Table Tennis England Disciplinary Procedure.