



OLDHAM

NETBALL CLUB



Coach - Code of Conduct

Oldham Netball Club Coach Code of Conduct

Oldham Netball Club (ONC) expects the highest standards of behaviour from all coaches and individuals involved in the delivery of netball at our club.

As an ONC coach, I recognise that I hold a **position of trust and responsibility**, particularly when working with children and young people. I agree to act honestly, fairly, professionally and in the best interests of our players while upholding the values, policies and safeguarding expectations of Oldham Netball Club and England Netball.

As an Oldham Netball Club Coach, I Will:

Professional Standards

- **Be a positive role model** and conduct myself in a way that reflects positively on ONC and the sport of netball.
- **Maintain high standards of behaviour, language, appearance, punctuality, preparation and professionalism** at all times.
- **Treat all players, parents/carers, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators with dignity and respect.**
- **Follow the rules, regulations and requirements of netball**, including the requirements of leagues, competitions and tournaments in which ONC participates.
- **Respect the decisions of umpires and officials** and raise any concerns calmly and through the appropriate channels.
- **Control my behaviour and emotions.** Verbal, emotional or physical abuse, intimidation, threatening behaviour or deliberately provoking players, officials, coaches or spectators will not be tolerated.
- **Display good sportsmanship**, showing modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat and encouraging my players to do the same.
- **Recognise and celebrate the achievements of others** and contribute positively to a supportive club culture.

Coaching & Player Development

- **Put the welfare, safety and development of players at the centre of my coaching.**
- **Plan and deliver appropriate, purposeful and structured training sessions** that reflect the age, ability, experience and developmental needs of the players I coach.
- **Seek to inspire, motivate and develop every player** to help them reach their potential.
- **Provide appropriate challenge, encouragement and constructive feedback** while recognising that players develop at different rates.

- **Make selection, positional and court-time decisions fairly and in the best interests of the team**, taking into account factors including performance, development, attitude, commitment, attendance, opposition and team requirements.
- **Never humiliate, ridicule, intimidate or deliberately embarrass a player** because of their performance, ability, behaviour or a mistake.
- **Create an environment where players feel able to learn, make mistakes, ask questions and develop confidence.**
- **Continue to develop my own coaching knowledge and skills** and keep up to date with relevant coaching practices, qualifications and guidance.

Safeguarding & Professional Boundaries

- **Understand that safeguarding children and young people is everyone's responsibility** and familiarise myself with ONC and England Netball safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance.
- **Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with all players**, recognising the position of trust I hold as a coach.
- **Never abuse or misuse my position of trust, authority, power or influence** over a player.
- **Ensure that any physical contact with a player is appropriate, necessary and in accordance with England Netball safeguarding guidance.**
- **Never engage in an inappropriate relationship with a player or use my coaching position to establish or pursue an inappropriate personal relationship.**
- **Report any safeguarding concern, disclosure or allegation promptly** to the appropriate ONC Safeguarding Officer in accordance with club and England Netball procedures.
- **Never promise confidentiality to a child or young person where they disclose a safeguarding concern.** I will explain that information may need to be shared with the appropriate people to help keep them or somebody else safe.
- **Respect the confidentiality and sensitivity of personal information** I receive about players and their families and only share information with appropriate individuals where necessary.
- **Ensure that training, match and competition environments are appropriate and as safe as reasonably possible** for the age, ability and physical and emotional maturity of the players involved.

Communication & Social Media

- **Maintain appropriate professional boundaries in all communication with players**, including online and through social media.
- **I will not add, follow, privately message, or send or accept friend/follow requests involving any ONC player under the age of 18 through my personal social media accounts.**

- **I will not encourage an under-18 player to communicate with me privately through personal social media, messaging platforms or other unofficial communication channels.**
- **Communication with junior players will take place through club-approved methods and, where appropriate, involve or be visible to their parent/carer.**
- **I will use social media responsibly** and will not post, share or engage with content that could bring ONC, its players, coaches, volunteers, officials or the sport of netball into disrepute.
- **I will follow ONC and England Netball guidance regarding photography, video, live streaming and virtual activity involving children and young people.**

Equality, Inclusion & Respect

- **Treat everyone fairly and with dignity and respect**, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or any other protected characteristic.
- **Never engage in or tolerate discriminatory, abusive or anti-social behaviour**, including racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia or transphobia.
- **Challenge and report inappropriate behaviour, bullying, harassment or discrimination** through the appropriate club procedures.
- **Promote an inclusive environment** where players feel welcomed, respected and valued.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing

- **Take reasonable steps to ensure that activities are delivered safely** and follow relevant health and safety requirements.
- **Be appropriately mentally and physically fit to undertake my coaching responsibilities.**
- **Take player injuries, illness, pain and wellbeing concerns seriously** and respond appropriately within the boundaries of my role and competence.
- **Never encourage a player to continue participating where doing so could place their health or safety at unnecessary risk.**
- **Not consume alcohol, smoke, vape or use illegal substances immediately before or while coaching, supervising or otherwise being responsible for children or young people.**
- **Comply with relevant anti-doping rules and guidance** and never encourage or facilitate the inappropriate use of prohibited substances.

Working as Part of ONC

- **Work positively and cooperatively with other ONC coaches, Team Managers, committee members, volunteers and officials.**

- **Respect the roles, responsibilities and decisions of other members of the coaching and management team.**
- **Raise disagreements or concerns professionally and through the appropriate club channels**, rather than discussing them negatively with players, parents/carers or through social media.
- **Respect confidential club information** and not share information that I am not authorised to disclose.
- **Support and uphold ONC's policies, procedures, values and expectations** and promote them positively to players and families.
- **Inform the appropriate person if I am unable to fulfil a coaching commitment** and provide as much notice as reasonably possible.

My Commitment

I will **abide by this Coach Code of Conduct and promote its principles to others** while carrying out any coaching or other role on behalf of Oldham Netball Club.

I understand that my role as a coach places me in a position of trust and that **the welfare and safeguarding of children and young people must always take priority over sporting performance or results.**

I understand that failure to follow this Code of Conduct may result in appropriate action being taken by Oldham Netball Club. Depending on the nature, severity or frequency of the concern, this may include an informal discussion, formal warning, restriction or suspension from coaching duties, referral to the Club Committee or Safeguarding Officer, or other action **in accordance with ONC's disciplinary and safeguarding procedures and in line with England Netball's advice, policies and procedures.**

Where appropriate, serious safeguarding, misconduct or disciplinary concerns may also be referred to **England Netball and/or other relevant authorities.**