

Some examples of poor practice

- ▶ Rough, physical and /or sexually provocative games.
- ▶ Not giving young people the opportunity to contribute and make decisions.
- ▶ Inappropriate touching.
- ▶ Children using inappropriate language without being challenged.
- ▶ Shouting continuously.
- ▶ The use of sexually suggestive comments, even in jest.
- ▶ Failing to respond to allegations made by a child.
- ▶ Training too demanding for the developmental age of a child.



Avoid poor practice by:

- ▶ Putting the welfare of your performers first
- ▶ Treating everyone fairly
- ▶ Maintaining a safe distance from performers
- ▶ Avoiding spending time alone with children
- ▶ Being a role model
- ▶ Involving parents or carers
- ▶ Giving enthusiastic feedback and avoiding negative criticism.
- ▶ Taking part in ongoing coach education.
- ▶ Listening, watching and evaluating.



In conclusion...

- ▶ Poor practice can be harmful for participants, coaches, clubs and the development of sport.
- ▶ It provides a negative model of behaviour and attitude for others, and may lead to misconceptions about the motivation and intent of those involved.
- ▶ It may contribute to creating an environment in which other inappropriate behaviour is accepted.
- ▶ More seriously, poor practice may be part of the grooming process employed by an individual who is motivated to abuse a child.



Code of Conduct for Sports Coaches- Key Principles

Rights - coaches must respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in sport.

Relationships - coaches must develop a relationship with athletes (and others) based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect.

Responsibilities: personal standards - coaches must demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times.

Responsibilities: professional standards - to maximise benefits and minimise the risks to athletes, coaches must attain a high level of competence through qualifications and a commitment to ongoing training that ensures safe and correct practice.

