

Code of Conduct for Players

To Be Reviewed: 2027/ 2028 Season

Purpose

This Code of Conduct defines the **rights and responsibilities** of all players within Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club. It exists to:

- Protect the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of every participant.
- Promote both personal and athletic growth.
- Ensure that our club maintains a culture of respect, safety, acceptance, accountability, and fairness.

All players, youth and adult, share fundamental rights and responsibilities. However, **adult players are held to a higher standard of morality, professionalism, and accountability**, recognising their role as leaders, role models, and representatives of the club in the wider community.

Player Rights

Every player has the right to:

- A Safe Environment – Protection from bullying, harassment, discrimination, exploitation, or abuse of any kind.
- Respect and Fair Treatment – To be treated with dignity by teammates, opponents, referees, coaches and spectators at all times.
- Opportunities for Growth – To develop sporting skills, confidence, teamwork, and positive character through supportive participation.
- Equal and Equitable Opportunity –
 - To participate regardless of age, race, gender identity, religion, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, or ability.
 - To expect equitable opportunity whenever and wherever possible within the means and scope of the club, ensuring fairness in training, match selection, and development pathways.
 - To have reasonable adjustments made, where practical, for players with specific needs or requirements, including access to training, facilities, and coaching approaches that best support their development.
- Voice and Agency – To raise concerns through the club's Grievance Policy and to be heard, with assurances that they will not face retaliation for doing so.
- Belonging and Inclusion – To be welcomed, valued, and supported as part of the team community.
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Player Responsibilities

All players share responsibility for upholding the values of the club. These apply equally, but **adult players carry greater accountability** due to their influence on others and their role in setting the tone for the club.

At all times, **players regardless of age** must consider how their behaviour impacts or is perceived by teammates and coaches, reflects on themselves, their team, their club, and the wider community.

Respect and Sportsmanship

- All Players must:
 - Treat teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, and spectators with courtesy and respect.
 - Accept referee and official decisions without argument, hostility, or intimidation.
 - Avoid foul language, insults, gestures, or taunting behaviour.
 - Demonstrate sportsmanship whether winning or losing.
- Adult Players must:
 - Model exemplary behaviour and maturity in all situations.
 - Recognise that youth players look to them as examples and avoid actions or words that could negatively influence them.

Commitment to Growth

- All Players are expected to:
 - Attend training sessions and matches punctually and consistently.
 - Put forth effort, listen to feedback, and strive to improve both skills and teamwork.
 - Balance competitiveness with fairness and development.
- Adult Players are additionally expected to:
 - Mentor, guide, and encourage youth players.
 - Demonstrate perseverance, discipline, and commitment to lifelong learning in sport.

Safety and Inclusion

- All Players must:
 - Refrain from unsafe play, reckless actions, or physical aggression.
 - Avoid bullying, harassment, exclusion, or discriminatory behaviour.
 - Report unsafe or inappropriate behaviour if they witness it.
- Adult Players are subject to:
 - **Zero tolerance** for behaviour that harms, exploits, intimidates, or undermines the wellbeing of players.
 - Immediate consequences for any breach of safeguarding responsibilities.

Accountability and Integrity

- All Players must:
 - Take responsibility for their words, actions, and decisions.
 - Accept the consequences of misconduct without deflection or excuses.
 - Act honestly and uphold the spirit of the game.
- Adult Players must:
 - Demonstrate higher accountability, recognising their influence on others inside and outside the club.
 - Accept that breaches of this Code will result in stricter disciplinary action.

Misconduct and Consequences

Misconduct violations will be addressed by coaches through early intervention in all circumstances and can be dealt with through the Complaints Procedure if a formal complaint is raised.

Misconduct is defined as **any behaviour that violates this Code of Conduct** or undermines the values of safety, respect, fairness, and inclusion.

Consequences of misconduct violations by adult players may include verbal or written warnings by the coach, and may be immediately dealt within the process of the Complaints Procedure.

Youth Players

Consequences for misconduct will be corrective and educational in nature, focusing on learning and development. These may include:

- Verbal or written warnings.
- Parental/guardian involvement.
- Mentoring or reflective activities.
- Temporary suspension from training or matches as set out by the coach and Executive Committee.
- Removal from the team in cases of repeated or serious violations.

Adult Players

Consequences for misconduct will be stricter due to their responsibility as role models. These may include:

- Verbal or written warnings from the coach.
- Temporary suspension from training or matches as set out by the coach and Executive Committee.
- Permanent dismissal from the club for serious or repeated violations, especially involving bullying, harassment, or abuse.

Role of Team Captains

The role of a team captain puts a higher duty of care on the individual to behave at all times in line with the expectations of this policy. The following are expected with the age, development and maturity of the captain taken into account. As such, adult players as captains are held to the highest standard and scrutiny.

- Leadership shall be proved on and off the court and must always lead by positive example.
- Be supportive to all players on the team. If an adult, work closely with the team coach on how to support this.
- The captain should be a role model in terms of motivation and exemplifying the level of commitment required within the team.
- Captains should draw to the attention of the coach any players whom they have observed as not behaving in line with expectations or being divisive within the team.
- It is not the captains role to interven with players on behaviour matters but must bring it to the attention of the coach immediately so it can be dealt with.
- The captain will be the point of contact for referees on matters relating to teams on court.
- The captains will lead the team out on court in the case of a team lineup.
- The captains will in most cases accept trophies on behalf of their team.

Club Culture and Core Principles

The club is committed to maintaining a culture based on the following principles:

- **Acceptance and Belonging** – Every player is a valued part of the club community.
- **Zero Tolerance for Bullying, Harassment, or Abuse** – Such behaviours will not be excused under any circumstances.
- **Personal Growth and Development** – Every player is encouraged to improve not only in sport but in resilience, teamwork, and character.
- **Equitable Opportunity** – The club will strive, wherever possible, to provide equitable access to training, matches, and development opportunities, making reasonable adjustments to support players with specific needs.
- **Shared Responsibility** – Youth players are learning how to uphold the culture; adult players are required to lead and model it.

- **Representation Beyond the Court** – Players represent their team, their club, and their wider community both on and off the court.

Definitions (for clarity)

- **Bullying** – Repeated, intentional behaviour that causes physical, emotional, or social harm. Includes verbal abuse, exclusion, intimidation, and online bullying.
- **Harassment** – Unwanted behaviour that offends, humiliates, or intimidates another person.
- **Discrimination** – Unfair treatment based on characteristics such as race, gender identity, disability, religion, or sexual orientation.
- **Unsafe Play** – Reckless or violent conduct that risks injury to oneself or others.
- **Professionalism** – Conduct that demonstrates integrity, fairness, maturity, and respect, both on and off the court.

Commitment

Participation in **Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club** is a privilege and comes with responsibilities. By joining the club, every player agrees to abide by this Code of Conduct.

- **Youth Players** – Agreement to this Code is made jointly by the youth player and their parent(s) or guardian(s). Parents or guardians are expected to support the youth in understanding and meeting these responsibilities.
- **Adult Players** – Agreement to this Code is made individually by the participant, who accepts full responsibility for upholding the standards outlined.

By registering with Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club, all players, youth and adult, confirm that they:

1. Understand and accept the rights and responsibilities described in this Code.
2. Recognise that their behaviour reflects on themselves, their team, their club, and the wider community.
3. Accept that breaches of this Code will result in action under the club's disciplinary procedures, with adults held to a higher standard.

Participation in the Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club therefore requires full adherence to this Code of Conduct at all times.