



Codes of conduct

IAPS codes of conduct are a set of behaviours expected at IAPS events to ensure that they are enjoyable and fair for all children involved. This guidance should be read alongside the safeguarding policy and procedures, which is available on the IAPS [website](#). IAPS withholds the right to withdraw schools from competitions if they fail to comply with the codes of conduct.

Coaches

As a **coach/teacher/school representative** at an IAPS pupil event, you have a responsibility to:

1. Ensure that you have read and understood our safeguarding policy and procedures.
2. Ensure that all competitors understand your schools safeguarding procedures.
3. Ensure that all competitors are competing in the correct age groups according to the IAPS rules.
4. Staff should respect all other schools in attendance and under no circumstances poach children from other schools at events.
5. Ensure, where appropriate, you have sought advice and/or consent from national governing bodies for a pupil to play out of their age group.
6. Ensure that you and your competitors respect the rules of the game and that they are followed for competitors' safety.
7. Remember that your competitors play for fun and enjoyment, winning is only part of this.
8. Respect the officials and ensure your competitors and parents also respect the official's decisions.
9. Ensure that you always use appropriate language and behaviour; never ridicule or shout at competitors for making mistakes or losing a competition.
10. Ensure that all equipment used meets the national governing body safety standards and are appropriate for the age and ability of your competitors.
11. Provide opportunities for all competitors who wish to participate without over playing the most talented.
12. Understand the effort that goes into organising an IAPS event. Late withdrawals create problems for the organiser and schools who have entered. Your place could have been given to another school on the waiting list.



Competitors

As a **competitor** at an IAPS event, you have a responsibility to:

1. Play for the fun and enjoyment not just to please your coach/teacher or parents.
2. Honour and respect that the official's decision is final.
3. Respect your opponents and the officials. Without them, you wouldn't be able to play compete.
4. Remember that the aim of the game is to have fun, improve skills and to feel good. Winning is part of this but not the sole reason why we play.
5. Work equally hard for the team as for yourself.
6. Treat all teammates as they would wish to be treated.
7. Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents.
8. Appreciate and respect the adults who make these opportunities possible.
9. Fully commit to this code of practice.



Spectators and parents

We are delighted to be able to welcome spectators to most IAPS events.

As a **spectator/parent** you have a responsibility to:

1. Be a positive role model and lead by example. Children are involved for their enjoyment and without undue spectator pressure.
2. Encourage children to play by the rules and respect the officials.
3. Always respect the officials and their decisions. Video evidence will not be accepted in any cases to dispute decisions.
4. Always respect the coaches and their decisions. They give their time, energy and experience to coach the children.
5. Refrain from any form of bad language or poor behaviour towards players, officials and fellow spectators.
6. Be friendly and respectful to the opposition.
7. Teach children that effort and teamwork are as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
8. Turn defeat into victory by helping children work towards skill improvement and a positive attitude.
9. Be aware that IAPS events have comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures, available on our website: <https://iaps.uk/sport/safeguarding.html>
10. Try to relax and enjoy the event!

IAPS wants all competitions to run without any negative incidents. Excitement and emotions can run high at events, not least amongst the supporters. Unpleasant and inappropriate behaviour is very rarely seen. **IAPS retains the right to ask you to leave the event if you fail to comply with the code of conduct.**



Officials and Volunteers

As an **official/volunteer** at an IAPS event, you have a responsibility to:

1. Treat all children with respect and dignity.
2. Ensure you use appropriate language and behaviour towards everyone at the event.
3. Be a positive role model and lead by example.
4. Ensure the safety of children throughout the event.
5. Explain your decisions clearly and always be fair/unbiased.
6. Remember you are officiating a children's event and not an adult league. Educate competitors about the rules and the decisions made that they may not understand.
7. Refuse to tolerate or condone foul play of any kind.
8. Emphasise the spirit and the ethos of the game.
9. Take time to speak to players and coaches after the game.
10. Be aware that IAPS events have comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures, available on our website: <https://iaps.uk/sport/safeguarding.html>
11. Always work within sight of another adult. One on one situations with children and young people should be avoided.
12. Use separate facilities to the participants.