

IAPS Sport and Pupil Experience Programme:

Codes of Conduct - Adults

Introduction

The IAPS Codes of Conduct outline the expected behaviours at IAPS events to ensure they are safe, enjoyable, and fair for all children involved. This guidance should be read alongside our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, all available on the IAPS [website](#).

IAPS reserves the right to withdraw schools from competitions or ask individuals to leave an event if they fail to comply with these expectations.

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Coaches

As a coach, teacher, or school representative, you play a key role in creating a safe, fair, and enjoyable environment for children at IAPS events. This Code outlines your responsibilities, with a focus on safeguarding, positive conduct, and respect for all participants.

Please note: Competitors, spectators, and officials also follow their own Codes of Conduct.

Together, we ensure the highest standards of behaviour and sportsmanship. The Safeguarding Policy is available on the IAPS website.

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

1. Read and understand the IAPS [Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#).
2. Ensure all competitors are aware of your school's safeguarding procedures.
3. Confirm all competitors are entered into the correct age group in accordance with IAPS rules.
4. Show respect to all schools and never poach pupils from other schools at events.
5. Seek advice and/or consent from National Governing Bodies if a pupil is playing out of age group.
6. Ensure the rules of the game are followed and understood, especially for competitors' safety.
7. Emphasise that enjoyment is the main reason for participation; winning is only a part of that.
8. Respect match officials and ensure your team and supporters do the same.
9. Use positive and appropriate language and behaviour. Never ridicule or shout at pupils for mistakes or losing.
10. Use equipment that meets National Governing Body safety standards and is appropriate to age and ability.
11. Provide fair opportunities to all competitors, not just the most talented.
12. Appreciate the planning and effort involved in IAPS events. Late withdrawals affect other schools and organisers.

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Competitors

As a competitor at an IAPS event, you represent your school and yourself. This Code helps you understand how to enjoy the event safely, respectfully and fairly. Playing with effort, kindness, and good sportsmanship is more important than winning alone.

Please remember: Coaches, spectators, and officials are also following their own Codes of Conduct to support your experience and make the event the best it can be.

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

1. Play for fun, enjoyment, and personal development, not solely to please coaches or parents.
2. Accept that the referee's decision is final.
3. Respect your opponents, teammates, and match officials.
4. Remember: the aim is to enjoy the game, improve your skills, and feel proud - winning is only part of the experience.
5. Work hard for both your team and yourself.
6. Treat all teammates with kindness and fairness.
7. Co-operate with your coach, teammates, and even your opponents.
8. Be grateful to the adults who make these events possible.
9. Commit to this code of conduct in full.

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Spectators

We are delighted to welcome spectators to IAPS events. Your behaviour greatly influences the experience for children. This Code sets out how to be a positive and respectful presence. Encouragement, appreciation and fair play should be your focus.

Important: Coaches, officials, and competitors also follow their own Codes of Conduct. Everyone plays a part in ensuring events are safe, enjoyable, and supportive for all.

As a spectator, you have a responsibility to:

1. Be a positive role model. Children should enjoy the event without pressure.
2. Encourage fair play and respect.
3. Always respect referees and their decisions. Video evidence will not be used to challenge decisions.
4. Show appreciation for coaches - they give their time, energy, and expertise.
5. Avoid bad language or inappropriate behaviour towards players, officials, or other spectators.
6. Be friendly and respectful to opposition players and supporters.
7. Emphasise effort and teamwork over just winning.
8. Help your child learn from setbacks and promote a positive attitude.
9. Be aware of IAPS's [Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#).
10. Relax and enjoy the event!

Note: IAPS retains the right to ask individuals to leave an event if they fail to follow this code. While rare, inappropriate behaviour from spectators can have a serious impact on the experience for children.

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Officials and volunteers

As an official or volunteer, you help deliver a safe, fair, and smooth-running IAPS event. This Code sets out expectations for professional conduct, safeguarding, and respect for all participants. You are a role model and key to the event's success.

Please note: Coaches, competitors, and spectators also follow their own Codes of Conduct. Your role supports the positive, inclusive ethos of IAPS events for all children.

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

1. Treat all children with respect, dignity, and fairness.
2. Use appropriate language and maintain professional behaviour at all times.
3. Lead by example as a positive role model.
4. Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of all children.
5. Be clear, consistent, and fair in your decisions.
6. Remember these are children's events - be patient and educational when explaining rules or decisions.
7. Do not tolerate foul play or poor sportsmanship.
8. Promote the spirit and ethos of the game at all times.
9. Engage positively with players and coaches after games where appropriate.
11. Be familiar with IAPS [Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#).
10. Avoid being alone with children - always remain within sight of another adult.
11. Use separate facilities from children where possible.