



TYNE VALLEY CANOE CLUB

COACHES CODE OF PRACTICE

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

One of the general aims of Tyne Valley Canoe Club is to offer opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to participate in canoeing and to experience paddlesport in a variety of disciplines either at a recreational or competitive level. We also aim to provide coaching support and expert guidance that all members of the club can improve their performance and realise their aspirations in the sport.

This code of practice aims to ensure that all coaches of Tyne Valley Canoe Club realises their responsibility to the individuals they are coaching and that they carry this forward by developing best practice in the delivery of paddlesport.

The following are guidelines, which reflect the British Canoe Union Coaching Code and are integral to actions befitting a responsible sports coach and as such have been adopted by Tyne Valley Canoe Club into the 'Coach's Code of Practice'.

The Club, therefore, recognises that a responsible sports coach helps the development of individuals through improving their performance. This is to be achieved by:

- Identifying and meeting the needs of the individual.
- Improving performance through progressive programmes of structured, safe, supportive paddlesport activity.
- Creating an environment in which participants are motivated to maintain participation and improve performance.

BEST PRACTICE

Club coaches should adhere to the principles of good ethical practice, which are detailed in the club 'Equity Policy' and 'Code of Ethics'. The general points from these policies have been incorporated in to this document. They are to be considered to reflect best practice for coaches to follow and are highlighted below:

- Club coaches will operate according to the general rules and policies of the club.
- Club coaches must abide by the Child Protection and Harassment Policy of the Club as recommended by the British Canoe Union and Sport England.
- Club coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of the sport.
- Club coaches must be concerned with the well being and safety of the participant above the development of performance.
- Club coaches will ensure that reasonable procedures are in place to ensure the safety and well being of participants. They will be familiar with the club policies which cover health and safety.

- Club coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with participants (especially children and vulnerable adults) based upon mutual trust and respect.
- Club coaches must encourage and guide participants to be independent and to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Club coaches must ensure that activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the participant.
- Club coaches should, clarify in advance with participants (and with parents/carers if appropriate) exactly what is expected of them and what a participants are entitled to expect from their coach.
- Club coaches will hold up to date and valid qualifications, which are recognised by the BCU (for example BCU Coach Awards and First Aid Certificate).
- Club coaches will operate within those fields of paddlesport in which they have been trained and are qualified. They will not operate independently at a level which is outside their competence or experience.
- Club coaches will never exert undue influence on club members to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Club coaches should communicate and co-operate with other sports coaches and specialists and allied professions (including doctors, physiotherapists, etc.) In the best interests of the participant.
- Club coaches should always promote the positive aspects of their sport and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- Club coaches must consistently display high personal standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Club coaches will never smoke when coaching.
- Club coaches should not drink alcohol so soon before coaching that the smell will be still on their breath when working.
- Club coaches will recognise that they have a responsibility to themselves and their participants to maintain their own effectiveness as a coach.

Club Coach Agreement

As a coach with Tyne Valley Canoe Club I agree to follow the principles set out in this 'Coaches Code of Practice' and I am familiar with and have read the following club policies:

1. Child Protection and Harassment.
2. Harassment.
3. Equity and Code of Ethics.
4. Risk Assessment.
5. Club Code of Conduct.

Name.....

Signed.....Date.....

Coach Qualification.....

Club Position.....

Sign two copies. One to the coach and one to be retained by the Club Welfare Officer.