



Surf Life Saving Association of Wales

SLSA Wales DBS Associated Code of Conduct

- ✿ All SLSA Wales members are required to familiarise themselves with the Surf Life Saving Wales - Child Protection Policy and Child Friendly Child Protection Policy.
- ✿ All members who fall under the criteria for a DBS check (see Child Protection Policy 2016 / Section 7 / Disclosure and Barring Service / DBS application chart) to register with the online update service once DBS clearance is returned and agree to annual checks. Consent form to be completed.
- ✿ All DBS checked members are asked to read and then sign this Code of Conduct document to confirm their understanding.
A copy is to be kept with the club Child Protection officer and a copy is to be sent to the Lead Child Protection Officer.

1. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the content of their sport.
2. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of the performer above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by their sport's Governing Body **and hold appropriate insurance cover.**
3. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with performers, especially children, based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
4. Coaches must encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour.
5. Coaches should hold up to date nationally recognised governing body coaching qualifications where applicable.
6. Coaches must ensure the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
7. Coaches should at the outset clarify with performers, and where appropriate their parents, exactly what is expected of them and what performers are entitled to expect from the coach.
8. Coaches should cooperate fully with other specialists e.g. other coaches, officials in the best interest of the performer.
9. Coaches should always promote the positive aspects of their sport e.g. fair play and never condone rule violations, bad sportsmanship / impeding of another competitor or the use of prohibited substances.
10. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
11. Coaches must avoid exerting pressure on young members to compete when it is clear at that time that they do not wish to do so.

Good Practice

All personnel should adhere to the following principles and action

- ✿ Always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets).
- ✿ Make the experience of Surf Lifesaving fun and enjoyable: promote fairness, confront and **deal with bullying immediately.**
- ✿ Treat all children equally and with respect and dignity.
- ✿ Always put the welfare of the child first, before winning.
- ✿ Maintain a safe and appropriate distance with players (e.g. it is not appropriate for staff or volunteers to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them).
- ✿ Avoid unnecessary physical contact with children. Where any form of manual/physical support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the child. Physical contact can be appropriate so long as it is neither intrusive nor disturbing and the child's consent has been

given.

- ✿ Involve parents/cares wherever possible, e.g. where children need to be supervised in changing rooms, encourage parents to take responsibility for their own child. If groups have to be supervised in changing rooms always ensure parents, coaches etc. work in pairs.
- ✿ Request written parental consent if club officials are required to transport children in their cars, an annual club form could be used for this.
- ✿ Gain written parental consent for any significant travel arrangements e.g. overnight stays.
- ✿ Ensure that if mixed teams are taken away, they should always be accompanied by a male and female member of staff.
- ✿ Ensure that at away events adults should not enter a child's room or invite child to their rooms.
- ✿ Be an excellent role model.
- ✿ Always give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- ✿ Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of the child and do not risk sacrificing welfare in a desire for club or personal achievements. This means avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will.
- ✿ Secure written parental consent for the Association/club to act in loco parentis, to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises.
- ✿ Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given.

Poor Practice

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided by all personnel:

- ✿ Unnecessarily spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
- ✿ Taking children alone in a car on journeys, however short.
- ✿ Taking children to your home where they will be alone with you.
- ✿ Sharing a room with a child.
- ✿ Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- ✿ Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- ✿ Allowing children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- ✿ Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun. Reducing a child to tears as a form of control.
- ✿ Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- ✿ Do things of a personal nature that the child can do for themselves.

Where case arise where it is impractical /impossible to avoid certain situation e.g. transporting a child in your car, the tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the parent/care and the child involved. If during your care you accidentally hurt a child, the child seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions and/or if the child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, report any such incidents as soon as possible to another colleague and make a written note of it. Parents should also be informed of the incident.

I confirm that I have read and agree to abide by the SLSA Wales Code of Conduct and Good/Poor Practice Principles.

SLSA Wales Child Protection Policy can be found in the members area under [Public documents depository](#) on the SLSA Wales website www.slsawales.org.uk

Signature	Date:
Name (Please print):	D.O.B:
I am a member of: (Insert your club name)	

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