

Triathlon Ireland Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers/Chaperones

Parents and carers have the responsibility to ensure that their club is a safe and appropriate place for their children and should have an awareness of the safeguarding practices at their club and club activities. This means creating a child - centred environment, following Triathlon Ireland [Safeguarding policies](#) and reporting anything that occurs which has or may put a child at risk or contravenes the Triathlon Ireland codes of conduct. Parents/carers should take full responsibility for their actions. Parents/carers should read this code of conduct and comply fully with the points below. Any breach of this code of conduct could result in disciplinary action by Triathlon Ireland and could jeopardise future participation within the sport. This code of conduct extends to all Triathlon Ireland activities, club sessions and events.

Conduct and Respect

Parents/carers should:

- Respect the rights of their child or children in their care as well as all the other athletes, officials, staff and volunteers.
- Show patience and understanding towards young athletes and support their welfare at all times.
- Ensure the environment is safe and enjoyable for their child/children.
- Promote participation for children that is fun, safe and in the spirit of fair play
- Ensure appropriate leaders are informed regarding any absenteeism, medical conditions or other relevant matters concerning their child
- Ensure the young athlete/s they are responsible for are adequately supervised at all times.
- Provide the club with appropriate information in relation to their child to ensure their safe inclusion in the club and with emergency contact information and to be reasonably available in case of emergency.
- Promote relationships with athletes, officials, volunteers and other club and event attendees that are based on openness, honesty, trust and respect.
- Become members of the club and where possible contribute your time and effort in the daily running of the club; no club can operate successfully and safely without the help of volunteers. Be available for specified duties if and when required; some duties are mandatory and form part of the procedures for

safeguarding your children; some will be at the request of the club

- Understand and ensure your child/children abide by the Code of Conduct as set out by the club.
- Have an awareness of and respect for leaders and other adults and their roles within the club. If a parent/carer wishes to raise an issue with a leader or coach this should be addressed with the leader or coach in an appropriate manner and not in front of children and young people.
- Respect and abide by the decisions made by the Committee and other leaders, these should be made in the best interests of the children in the club.
- Understand the complaints process and follow the proper procedure if you feel unjustly treated, with the knowledge that any complaint will be dealt with effectively and confidentially.
- Know their child's training and/or competitive programme, and accept it is their responsibility for delivering and collecting their child/children. Parents/carers should ensure they do not leave their child/children waiting unsupervised at any time.
- Participate in relevant training and development opportunities that may help them support the child in their care, such as support workshops for parents around mental health, nutrition, cultural competency training and anti-bullying awareness education.
- Abide by the procedures and policies as set down by Triathlon Ireland, especially with regard to the use of smartphones, any type of camera and videoing equipment.
- Demonstrate positive behaviour at all times, providing a role model for all the athletes and young people at club sessions and events.
- Cooperate with recommendations from medical and ancillary practitioners in the management of a child's medical or related problems
- Respect the differences between everyone at the event in terms of age, civil status, disability, family status, gender, housing assistance payment, membership of the traveller community, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender expression and identity. (Statement from the Equal Status Acts, IHREC.)

Parents/carers should not:

- Consume alcohol or smoke (cigarettes or e-cigarettes) at Triathlon Ireland and club activities and events.
- Use bad or offensive language or use inappropriate gestures particularly in the presence of any young people.
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward for them or their child.
- Condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- Shout at or berate any child (including their own) taking part in club activities or events.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate physical contact of any kind or make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child or young person.
- Allow or engage in bullying behaviour, rough physical games, sexually provocative games.
- Post or share on social networking sites or websites images or text that is harmful, abusive, used to taunt, bully or that is in breach of the relevant policies, procedures and guidance set out by Triathlon Ireland and associated events.
- Take part in activity that will bring the Triathlon Ireland, the club or event into disrepute.

Responding and reporting

- Parents/carers should report any concerns, observed or reported, accidents or incidents to the club Children's Officer, Event Safeguarding Lead or where this is not possible the Triathlon Ireland National Safeguarding lead.
- If a child or young person shares their concerns with a parent/carer they should listen, stay calm, not make judgements or false promises and should in a timely manner inform the appropriate person.

[Triathlon Ireland safeguarding contacts](#)