

Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Youth Sport in Gymnastics Ireland

10: Club Behaviour Guidelines for Youths

The contents of this Code Sheet are not Gymnastics Ireland Policy but sample guidelines that may be helpful to your Club.:

_____ (name of club) demands the highest standards of behaviour from all young gymnasts. It is the Club's policy to encourage and acknowledge high standards of behaviour. However, it is also the Club's policy not to tolerate unacceptable behaviour from any gymnast towards fellow gymnasts, coaches, officials, opponents, parents or any other Club members. This will apply to any situation in which a member is representing the Club which also includes while travelling to and from training, fun days and competition. The behavioural policies of the Club are non-violent and will not involve the humiliation of the gymnasts. However behavioural policies should encourage young members to become more responsible for their actions.

The use of sanctions is an important part of maintaining proper Codes of Conduct. Sanctions should be fair and progressively applied if specific offences are repeated but mainly sanctions should not be used as a threat and making the coach feel better. The following sample "Code of Behaviour Sanctions" should be communicated to parents, gymnasts and coaches when they are joining the Club or at the start of the season/when completing the Club Membership Application Form. In the event that a coach or an adult helper feels a young participant's behaviour is unacceptable, the disciplinary procedure should be followed.

Sample code of behaviours sanctions:

BEHAVIOURS	POSSIBLE SANCTIONS FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR (The sanctions below will be applied according to the severity of the offensive behaviour)
<p>A. Minor Don'ts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent talking & disruption while Coaches are coaching - Cheek or disrespect towards coaches or helpers - 'Horseplay' which has not caused injury - Continuous non-compliance with instructions of a Coach or helper 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal warning 2. Taken aside and a 2nd verbal warning 3. 'Sin-bin' for 5 minutes 4. 'Sin-bin' for 15 minutes or longer as deemed appropriate

BEHAVIOURS	POSSIBLE SANCTIONS FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR (The sanctions below will be applied according to the severity of the offensive behaviour)
<p>A. Serious Don'ts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offensive language or gestures towards another gymnast, Coach or others - 'Horseplay' which has caused injury - accidental or otherwise - Persistent non-compliance of instructions of Coach or helper - Cheating the rules - Telling lies about ad 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A formal warning with another Coach present. (A sanction may be warranted) 2. 'Sin-bin' for 15 minutes or longer as deemed appropriate 3. A formal warning with parent present with possible suspension from next training session or event
<p>C. Critical Don'ts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bullying - in any form (verbal, physical etc) - Wilful damage to an individual or Club property - Theft of individuals or Club property - Shouting and arguing with an Official 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A written warning 2. Parents advised appropriate sanction being applied

Please remember:

If you have Behavioural Guidelines and sanctions in your Club please ensure that they are communicated to all (i.e. parents, coaches and gymnasts). The young gymnast should be spoken to in a calm, normal voice explaining the breach of Code of Best Practice so that they do not feel threatened and fully understand the breach and how they may improve. Explain that a repeat breach will lead to further disciplinary action and what the disciplinary action may be.

In the event a young person becomes upset when spoken to, the Coach or Assistant should inform the parents/guardian at the end of the training session.

Two individuals (either Coaches, Assistant, Children's Officer) should speak to a young person at all times regarding the serious and critical breach of the Code away from other gymnasts.