



NORTHERN IRELAND TENPIN BOWLING FEDERATION

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES/VOLUNTEERS

These guidelines have been produced to help protect anyone working with young people in Northern Ireland Tenpin Bowling Federation and should be followed at all times. If you have any queries regarding these, please contact any Committee member or the Child Protection Officers.

- Always be publicly open when working with children. Avoid situations where you and an individual child are completely unobserved.
- If physical contact is necessary, it should be done openly. Care is needed as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when providing manual support if the child is constantly moving. Some parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about touching children and their views should always be carefully considered.
- Parents should be asked to ensure children are collected on time.
- Where mixed teams compete away from home, they should always be accompanied by at least one male and one female adult. If appropriate they must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- All should place the well-being and safety of the bowler above the development of performance. Always make sure that you are working at a level commensurate with your coaching qualifications.
- Members working with children should hold appropriate qualifications in coaching, leadership, officiating etc.
- Adults should ensure that the activities which they direct or advocate are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the bowlers eg they should not break rules on suitable competition for age groups.
- Make sure that all bowlers know to inform the coach of any injury or illness before, during and after the activity.
- Adults should always promote the positive aspects of bowling and never condone violations of rules, bad sportsmanship or use of prohibited substances.
- Adults should consistently display high standards of personal behaviour and appearance, as well as an appropriate dress, language and respect for equipment and facilities.

- Adults should never overtly criticise bowlers or officials' judgements or use language or actions which may cause the child to lose self esteem or confidence.
- All members must also be aware that as a general rule it does not make sense to:
 - Spend amounts of time alone with children away from others.
 - Take children alone on car journeys, however short.
 - Take children to your home.
- If it should arise that such situations are unavoidable they should only take place with the full knowledge of someone in charge in NITBF and/or a person with parental responsibility for the child.
- Coaches and helpers should be aware that normal car insurance does not cover them for transporting bowlers to and from events.
- All coaches and helpers should try to be on time, and inform an appropriate person if ill or unable to attend a coaching session.
- Members should **NEVER**:
 - Engage in rough physical or sexually provocative games including horseplay.
 - Share a room with a child.
 - Permit or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
 - Permit children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
 - Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
 - Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
 - Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves.
 - Agree to meet a bowler on your own.
- If you accidentally hurt a child or cause distress in any manner, or the child appears to respond in a sexual manner to your actions, or misunderstands, or misinterprets something you have done, report the incident to a colleague supported by a brief written report of the incident as soon as possible. Parents/carers should be informed of the incident.

Non compliance of the Code may result in disciplinary action.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (in capitals) _____