

Aberdeen & District Badminton League

Code of Conduct

All those participating in events and activities organised by the Aberdeen & District Badminton League (including, but not limited to, Clubs, Players, Volunteers, Committee Members, Coaches, Parents, Officials, etc.) shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the principles as laid out within the following Code of Conduct. Participants who fail to meet these standards, may be subject to investigatory procedures and potential disciplinary sanctions, as deemed appropriate by a League Committee panel (taking into account any potential conflicts of interest).

Players:

- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will engage in the spirit of fairness and the ethos of the sport and not knowingly cheat at any time.
- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will always play by the current rules of the game.
- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will treat officials with respect and accept that official's decisions are final.
- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will control their tempers. The verbal abuse of other players and/or deliberate distraction or provocation of an opponent(s) are unacceptable behaviours and are not permitted.
- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will display control, respect, and professionalism to all involved within the sport including opponents, coaches, officials, committee members, parents, spectators and in their public communications on any social media platforms. They will encourage other players to do the same.
- ALL LEAGUE PLAYERS will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, sexuality, ability, or cultural background.

Clubs:

- The CLUB will help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help to improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- The CLUB will ensure that everyone involved in the sport emphasises fair play.
- The CLUB will distribute a code of conduct to players, coaches, officials, and parents and encourage them to follow it.
- The CLUB will not tolerate bad language or behaviour from any member to any other player, coach, official or spectator at the club.
- The CLUB will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, sexuality, ability, or cultural background.

Parents/Caregivers:

- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will not pressure their child(ren) in any way.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will not use bad language, nor will they harass players, officials, coaches, or other spectators.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will encourage their child(ren) to play within the rules and respect officials and coach's decisions.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will teach their child(ren) to respect the efforts of their opponents, be impartial, consistent, objective, and courteous when making decisions.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will remember that children learn best by example so they will applaud good plays/performances by both their child/child's team and their opponents.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will focus on their child's efforts and performance rather than the scoreline.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will not be under the influence of or consume alcohol or drugs whilst present at any ADBL event.
- All PARENTS/CAREGIVERS will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, sexuality, ability, or cultural background.

Committee Members:

- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will develop appropriate, productive working relationships with each other and ensure that all communications and actions are made in a clear and transparent manner.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will treat their fellow officials equally, with respect and fairness, and leave personal disputes out of committee bounds.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will refrain from resorting to behaviour which could be considered as aggressive, passive-aggressive, intimidating and/or unprofessional.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will make sure all league activities are appropriate to the age, experience, and ability of those taking part.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. enjoyment, inclusivity and fair play).
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will follow and promote the current guidelines and ethos of the national governing body (i.e. Badminton Scotland).

- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will lead by example, and not condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will not pass on any confidential information gained through their involvement with the committee to a third party, without the approval of the Chair.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will be diligent in their role and attend committee meetings or forward their apology before any meetings held.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will make decisions based on what is best for the league, not individual interest or gain, and not take advantage of their position.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will remain impartial in disputes and treat all clubs and individuals fairly and equally, without discrimination.
- All COMMITTEE MEMBERS will accept committee decisions made, even if he or she disagrees and voted against it if a vote was taken.
- ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the league, regardless of their gender, sexuality, ability, or cultural background.

All complaints regarding a potential breach of the above Code of Conduct, should be made in writing to the Chair of the League Committee (or in the event of a complaint involving the Chair, to the League Secretary) for consideration and action as deemed appropriate.

Complaints submitted to the committee, will be investigated and at conclusion fall under one of the following outcomes:

- The complaint is founded, and formal sanction given.
- The complaint is founded, and informal action recommended.
- The complaint is unfounded.
- The complaint is found to be vexatious, and a separate process instigated.

Possible Disciplinary Sanctions given may include (but are not restricted to):

- A verbal warning (6-month timespan¹).
- A written warning (12-month timespan¹).
- Request for a verbal and/or written apology.
- Further education or training.
- Suspension from league activities for a certain period of time.
- Permanent removal from league activities.

¹ Verbal warning to be held on file for a 6-month (written warning to be held on file for 12-month) timespan then deleted if no further instance occurs. If a similar instance, or another breach of the code of conduct, occurs then an initially applied sanction may be escalated to being a suspension.

Please note that these sanctions may be applied separately or in addition to, any internal disciplinary sanctions which are deemed necessary by a club's own policies and procedures.

In applying these sanctions, the League Committee may have regard to the following aggravating or mitigating circumstances:

- The nature and severity of the offence.
- Whether the incident is a first offence or has occurred repeatedly.
- The participant's acknowledgement of responsibility.
- The participant's extent of remorse.
- The participant's extent of co-operation in any investigative procedures.
- The age, maturity, or experience of the participant.
- The extent to which others were harmed by the participant's actions.

Unless otherwise decided upon by the League Committee, disciplinary sanctions applied shall not take effect until the time period for an appeal has been expired, or an appeal has been decided. Any appeals must be made in writing to the League Committee within 14 calendar days.

Child Protection:

All clubs are reminded that it is their responsibility to determine what checks are required to confirm the suitability of new (and existing) members and to undertake these checks. This is particularly important for coaches (and any other persons) that are or may be involved with young/vulnerable persons where they should seek Badminton Scotland accreditation which may include applying to Disclosure Scotland for relevant information.

For further information and Guidance please see:

<https://childprotectionpartnership.org.uk/>