

Wimborne & District Table Tennis League

Coaches Code of Conduct

Table Tennis England and the Wimborne & District Table Tennis League expect that everyone involved with table tennis will be respected, valued and has the right to be protected from any form of abuse. As a qualified Table Tennis coach, you are therefore expected to adhere to this code of conduct at all times.

You will never bring the sport of table tennis into disrepute in any way or criticise others associated with table tennis in any way which does not treat them with dignity and respect.

Any breaches of these codes, including all complaints and allegations will be acted upon in accordance with the Table Tennis England Disciplinary Regulations and Safeguarding Disciplinary Regulations.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child and/or an adult at risk, you have a responsibility to report your concerns with the League's Welfare Officer and/or seek advice from the Safeguarding and Ethics Manager. Coaches must **not** carry out investigations into any concerns.

1. Respect

Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination.

Table Tennis coaches **must**:

1.1. Treat everyone fairly and equally, within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, disability, ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, political persuasion, socio-economic status, athletic potential, marital status, sexual orientation or gender reassignment and ensure that your players do the same.

2. Relationships

Developing professional relationships is central to the role of an effective coach. Coaches must act with integrity and are expected to be honest, sincere and honourable in their relationships with participants and others.

Table Tennis coaches **must**:

2.1. Accept responsibility for participants' conduct and challenge inappropriate behaviour, including the use of foul or abusive language

2.2. Encourage participants to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance whether in training, competing or in life in general

2.3. Abide by the Table Tennis England E-Safety Guidelines and should be transparent in the use of social media to communicate with athletes

2.4. Follow the appropriate welfare guidelines and take the necessary actions if there is a concern over the wellbeing of an athlete.

2.5. Report any injustices or abuse you may witness.

Table Tennis coaches **must not**:

2.6. Engage in any relationship of a sexual nature with a participant for whom they are responsible. This can include flirting or use of inappropriate gestures and/or language

2.7. Ridicule, embarrass, bully or abuse a participant or reduce them to tears as a coaching method.

3. Personal Standards

Table Tennis coaches are expected to demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times. Coaches are expected to act as a role model for athletes at all times.

Table Tennis coaches **must**:

- 3.1. Display high levels of punctuality, dress, language and preparation at all times
- 3.2. Engage with and support any individuals who are involved in the development of athletes
- 3.3. Recognise personal limitations and be prepared to pass athletes on to more capable coaches to ensure the continued development of the athlete. Never exert pressure on those they coach to compete or get results; everyone needs to be realistic about each individual's ability.

Table Tennis coaches **must not**:

- 3.4. Criticise fellow coaches; either privately or publicly
- 3.5. Drink alcohol or use recreational drugs whilst in the company of athletes, including when travelling
- 3.6. Drink alcohol or use recreational drugs before or during coaching sessions or events
- 3.7. Smoke in front of participants

4. Professional Responsibilities

Coaches should be well-prepared and possess up-to-date knowledge of Table Tennis so as to maximise the benefits and minimise risk to the athletes. Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for the image and integrity of the sport and coaching profession and their actions should reflect this.

Table Tennis coaches **must**:

- 4.1. Hold a valid coaching licence and keep credentials up to date in order to maintain the validity of that licence
- 4.2. Ensure that when entering into any agreements with players, teams, groups, clubs, schools or any other employer the nature of the agreement is understood and agreed by all parties
- 4.3. Provide a safe and secure environment for training and competition, minimising any risks to athletes
- 4.4. Ensure that player information and medical details are managed appropriately at all times
- 4.5. Work in a publicly open environment and avoid situations where they are working alone and unobserved with a young person and/or an adult at risk
- 4.6. Ensure that any form of physical contact with athletes is appropriate to the situation and is absolutely necessary. Coaches must ask permission of the participant and explain what they are doing and why the physical contact is necessary
- 4.7. Follow good practice guidelines regarding safeguarding children and young people. This includes:
 - 4.7.1. Not inviting athletes to their home
 - 4.7.2. Not taking children alone on car journeys
 - 4.7.3. Not being left in an enclosed or private space with athletes unless accompanied or in an emergency
- 4.8. Coaches must abide by all Table Tennis England policy documents and guidelines including:

4.8.1.	A	Safeguarding Guidelines
4.8.2	B	Level the Table Strategy
4.8.3	C	DBS Guidelines
4.8.4	D	Social Media, Live Streaming and Photography Guidance
4.8.5	E	Guidelines for Travelling to Competitions and Camps