

## **Child Protection & Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians**

Everyone involved in sport, children, parents/guardians, and sports leaders should accept their role and responsibilities and undertake to commit to maintaining an enjoyable and safe environment for all participants. There exists a duty of care on all adults to safeguard children. Adults have a crucial leadership role to play in sport. Whether they are parents/guardians or sports leaders or teachers, they can contribute to the creation of a positive sporting environment for young people. Positive relationships will result in growth, development and fulfilment for all those involved in children's sport.

Parents/guardians play a key role in the support and promotion of an ethical approach to sport and young people's enjoyment in sport. Parents/guardians therefore need to be aware, informed and involved in promoting the safest possible environment for children to enjoy their participation in sport. Sports leaders need the support of parents/guardians in conveying the fair play message. All participants in sport have a responsibility to keep sport safe, fun and conducted with a spirit of fair play for all.

### **Parents/guardians code of conduct**

- Encourage your child to learn the rules & play within them.
- Discourage unfair play & arguing with officials.
- Publicly accept officials' judgments.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play & applauding the good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Support your child's involvement & help them to enjoy their sport.
- Always use correct & proper language.
- Encourage & guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance & behavior.
- Follow instructions from club officials.

The specific behaviours children need from their parents are both person and sport dependent. As a parent it is important to display behaviours that are most helpful for your child and applicable to their sport.

**Signed by parent/guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club name:** St. Abban's A.C

Drawn from: Holt, N. L., & Knight, C. J. (2014). Parenting in Youth Sport: From Research to Practice. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.