



CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICS

FOR PLAYERS, COACHES, OFFICIALS & SPECTATORS



ISLE OF MAN BASKETBALL CODE OF CONDUCT

Valid as of 18th December 2023

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General principles

The Isle of Man Basketball Association asserts and affirms the principles laid out in the England Basketball Code of Ethics and Conduct. All those involved in basketball must treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural or social background, sexual orientation, religious belief, political affiliation, or any other personal characteristic/feature.

The Isle of Man Basketball Association (IOMBBA) is opposed to any form of violent, offensive, or discriminatory behaviour and will act as necessary to remove individuals from basketball who do not abide by this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Everyone involved in basketball, both adults and young people have a responsibility to treat everyone with dignity, respect, sensitivity, and fairness. Be aware of the special needs of young people and vulnerable adults and recognise that some face additional barriers.

Every young person or vulnerable adult involved in the game of basketball should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. Allegations of a child protection nature relating to the breaking of this Code of Ethics and Conduct must follow the reporting procedures as contained in the IOMBBA Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

1. Coaches

Coaches who are affiliated to the Isle of Man Basketball Association must accept their responsibility to the participants, their parents, and families, to coaching and to the sport.

All affiliated coaches agree to:

- Consider the safety and wellbeing of all individuals in their charge.
- Ensure their behaviour is not misconstrued or open to allegations of favouritism, misconduct, or impropriety.
- Follow guidance on good practice when working with young people/vulnerable adults and report any concerns for their wellbeing to the relevant authority or body.
- Uphold the appropriate boundaries in the working relationship between coach and player – especially when one person is aged under 18 years of age or a vulnerable adult. While the coach-player relationship exists, the coach should not only refrain from initiating a relationship but should also discourage any attempt by a player to initiate an intimate relationship, explaining the ethical basis of the refusal.
- Ensure that all training and playing demands are not detrimental to the wellbeing of the players and are reasonable dependent upon the age, maturity, experience, and ability of the players.
- Ensure their competence and ability is sufficient so that the safety of players is not compromised.
- Encourage players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Respect the rights of players to choose to decline to participate within coaching or playing situations; never put a player on court if they are injured or unfit to do so.
- Declare any affiliation, sponsorship, or accreditation in a truthful and accurate manner.
- Abide by all rules and policies of the Isle of Man Basketball Association.
- Hold a clear Enhanced DBS check when in a position of regulated activity.

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- Comply with all safeguarding and first aid policies and procedures including submitting Self-Declaration forms.
- Declare any history or instances where you were disciplined, dismissed, cautioned, warned, or convicted of any offence relating to children/young people/vulnerable adults on a Self-Declaration form submitted to the Executive Committee Secretary.
- Communicate and co-ordinate with medical practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of a players' medical/psychological problems.
- Be a positive role model.
- Never use foul, sexist, or racist language or act in a violent/abusive manner.
- Refrain from undue public criticism of other coaches or match officials.
- Refrain from posting negative or derogatory comments on social media about other clubs, coaches, or officials.

2. Players

All affiliated players agree to:

- Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or political affiliation.
- Treat your team-mates and opponents, coaches, club officials and match officials with respect and consideration at all times - treat them as you would like to be treated.
- Not use foul, sexist, racist language, or offensive gestures at any time.
- Know and abide by the rules and spirit of the game.
- Avoid violence and rough play and help injured opponents.
- Accept the decisions of the match officials without question or complaint (let your captain or coach ask the necessary questions) and avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official.
- Abide by the instructions of the coach and club officials, provided they do not contradict the spirit of this Code of Ethics and Conduct or the rules of basketball.
- Concentrate on the game, do not react/respond to undue criticism from spectators, parents, opposition coaches or opposition club officials. Raise any concerns calmly and professionally to the match officials to respond, deal and report.
- Learn to accept victory and defeat with humility and dignity and without excessive emotional displays.
- Be a good sport, applaud all good performance, whether by your team or by the opponent.
- At the end of play applaud and thank your opponents and the match officials.

3. Match Officials- (Referees & Table officials)

All affiliated match officials must:

- Treat everyone equally and sensitively, regardless of their disability, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion, age, or political affiliation.
- Not tolerate foul, sexist, or racist language.
- Be honest, consistent, objective, impartial and courteous when applying the rules of the game. Officials must resist any influence from protests on the part of participants or spectators of the game.

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- Claim any affiliation, sponsorship, or accreditation in a truthful and accurate manner.
- Show patience and understanding towards players who may be learning the game.
- Ensure focus is maintained at all times, do not be distracted by mobile phones or personal devices unless identified prior to the game and are used to benefit the game.
- Decline to be appointed to a match if not completely physically or mentally fit to participate in that match (because of illness, injury, or for family or other reasons).
- Have regard to protecting the players by enforcing the laws of the game.
- Show due respect when speaking with participants in the game, even in the event of infringements.
- In reports, set out the true facts.
- Refrain from publicly expressing any criticism of fellow officials.
- Assist with the development of those with less experience.
- Declare any history or instances where you were disciplined, dismissed, cautioned, warned, or convicted of any offence relating to children/young people/vulnerable adults to the Executive Committee Secretary.

4. Parents/guardians (and other family members) of U18s

All family/guardians of participants will:

- Teach your child to treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or political affiliation, gender, ethnic origin, or cultural background.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal, physical and racist abuse from basketball.
- Not force an unwilling participant to take part in basketball.
- Remember that young people are involved for their enjoyment - not yours.
- Encourage all to play by the rules and respect the match officials.
- Never ridicule or shout at a participant for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Teach that effort and teamwork are as important as victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Remember that young people and vulnerable adults learn best by example.
- Refrain from publicly questioning the judgement or honesty of match officials.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteers in basketball. They give their time, energy, and resources to provide recreational activities for others.
- Not shout abuse at officials, coaches, players, or other spectators;

5. Spectators

It is required that all spectators of games under the jurisdiction of the Isle of Man Basketball Association:

- Do not use offensive, discriminatory, or obscene language or gestures. Do not harass or verbally abuse players, coaches, match officials or fellow spectators in any form.
- Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or political affiliation.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms and refrain from any violent or aggressive behaviour.

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- Show respect for opponents and match officials. Without them there would be no game.
- Acknowledge good performance and fair play by opponents as well as by your own team.
- Remember the players are taking part for their enjoyment not yours.
- Do not ridicule players who make mistakes.
- Do not over emphasise the importance of winning.
- On no account should you enter the court unless authorised otherwise.
- Do not shout abuse at officials, coaches, players, or other spectators;

6. Young People

There are additional requirements for how young people should be treated by adults and how young people should treat their peers.

Adults to young people:

- Be aware of how your language and behaviour may have an effect and ensure you do not use foul language, humiliate, or bully any young person.
- Make sure you are fully aware of and follow the latest guidance on working with young people.
- Treat everyone with respect and dignity, recognising the additional needs or disadvantages of those with disabilities or from minority backgrounds.
- Set a good example as young people will learn from you.
- Make sure disciplinary actions are nonviolent/humiliating and use rewards, praise, and acknowledgment to reinforce good behaviour.
- Listen and act if a young person tells you they are being bullied or abused.

Young people to each other should:

- Never bully, spread rumours, or tell lies about other young people.
- Welcome and include new players whatever their background or ability.
- Control your emotions - verbal or physical abuse is not acceptable at any time.
- Do not show off or try to humiliate other players.
- Do not ridicule or blame teammates who make mistakes.
- Make sure you tell your coach/parents if another young person confides in you, and you think they need help.

7. Whistle Blowing

The Isle of Man Basketball Association is committed to developing a culture where it is safe and acceptable for all stakeholders to raise concerns about poor or unacceptable practice and misconduct. Confidential concerns can be submitted to any member of the Executive Committee for further action.

8. False Allegations

All allegations or concerns submitted to the Isle of Man Basketball Association must be 100% factual, true, and correct at all times.

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Where the IOMBBA finds sufficient evidence to suggest that any concern or allegation is not true or factual, the Association may take any such disciplinary action as deemed appropriate.

Where the IOMBBA finds insufficient evidence or a basis to act against a complaint/concern, this does not mean that the initial concern or complaint is false, in these instances the Association has been unable to prove the concerns/complaint.