

The Scottish Surfing Federation

Code of Conduct



Prepared by
The Scottish Surfing Federation
Caidreachas Surfadh na h-Alba
April 2019



A Code of Conduct has a number of important functions. It:

- Sets out what behaviour is acceptable and unacceptable.
- Defines standards of practice expected from those to whom it applies.
- Forms the basis for challenging and improving practice.
- Helps to safeguard staff/volunteers by encouraging them to adhere to agreed standards of practice.
- Sets out for children and parents/carers the standards of practice which they and the organisation should expect from those who work/volunteer with children.

Code of conduct – Volunteers/staff

We as a SSF and individually as volunteers/staff agree:

- To respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being. To treat everyone equally and never discriminate on any grounds.
- To provide safe supervision of your child when surfing in any case.
- To treat all information of a personal nature about individuals as confidential.
- To take all reasonable steps to establish a safe working environment.
- To ensure that all teaching is appropriate for the age, ability and experience of the individual and that our work and the manner it is done are in keeping with the regular and approved practice of this sport.
- To maintain our teaching, life-saving qualifications and professional development to ensure your child is with safe and experienced teachers, offering the best available knowledge.
- To be concerned primarily with the well-being, health and future of the individual surfer and only secondarily with the optimisation of their performance.
- To respect the surfer' rights, wishes and feelings. To take all reasonable practical steps to protect the children from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment.
- To complete regular safeguarding training in line with British Surfing Federation guidance. The child's welfare is paramount and every child has the right to protection from abuse.
- To encourage and guide surfers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- To always be publicly open when working with children. We will avoid situations where we as teachers and individual surfers are completely unobserved.
- That any manual support of the child will be provided openly.
- To encourage an open environment i.e. no secrets.
- To consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- To develop an appropriate working relationship with surfers based on mutual trust and respect.
- To never exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- To ensure any suspicions and allegations of safeguarding issues will be taken seriously, responded to swiftly and appropriately.



Code of conduct - Parents and carers

We ask that you as Parents & Carers agree with the following:

The Scottish Surfing Federation recognises the vital role that parents and carers play in our sport. We know that young athletes perform at their best and enjoy their sport more when they have the backing of supportive family members. It can, however, be easy for parents and carers to get caught up in the behaviour from the side line which can then detract from a young person's positive experience. As such all parents and carers are asked to abide by the following code of conduct:

- Demonstrate respectful behaviour at all times. Children often copy what they see so please give them something positive to copy.
- Encourage your child to learn the rules of the sport and play within them at all times.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport. Sport should be fun and your child will only continue to progress if they genuinely enjoy taking part.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and appropriate language at all times.
- In order to ensure that club staff can best support your child, please feel able to share any relevant information about matters affecting your child's wellbeing (e.g. medical conditions, additional support needs, allergies, worries at school, family bereavement etc) with coaches and club officials as appropriate.
- We all want the children to get the most from their sport session, and although it is tempting to give your input we feel it is confusing for a child to receive technical advice from the parent as well as the coach during events. A few words of encouragement are fine.
- Make surfing fun. The more fun your child is having, the more they will learn and the better they will perform.
- Ensure that the SSF has up to date contact details as required.
- Ensure that your child is prompt for their lessons and is well enough to participate fully in the lesson.
- To consistently display high standards of behaviour and report poor behaviour by others to an appropriate member of staff.
- To behave responsibly as a spectator during lessons and treat other customers and staff with due respect in accordance with the SSF commitment to diversity and equality. To not use inappropriate language within the SSF environment.
- To support children and encourage them to enjoy their sport and to achieve to the best of their ability.
- To respect the privacy of others, especially in the use of changing facilities. Parents should not be in the changing room while children are changing unless their child is of an age where help is required from parents (usually 7 or 8 years and below) or if the child requires additional specific assistance.
- Ensure children are aware of the code of conduct.



Scottish Surfing Federation reserve the right to ask any parent or carer to leave a training session or event if they are in breach of any aspect of this code of conduct.

Code of conduct - Surfers

We ask that you as surfers agree with the following:

- As a member of the Scottish Surfing Federation all young athletes are expected to demonstrate to a professional level of behaviour and commitment.
- The Scottish Surfing Federation believe it is important that all athletes, coaches, administrators, parents and officials should show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of themselves and others at all times.
- Arrive at all training sessions on time, ready to participate and show commitment to the sport.
- Participate within the rules of the sport, respect decisions of coaches and officials and demonstrate respectful behaviour towards all fellow athletes and opponents.
- Always wear the appropriate kit/uniform during training and wear suitable attire to all events.
- Demonstrate positive behaviour at all times. No swearing or inappropriate behaviour in any public environment (i.e. whilst in the club, travelling as part of a team/squad, at team events/functions etc).
- Treat fellow athletes, coaches and staff with respect at all times. Derogatory statements about individuals will not be tolerated.
- Agree not to smoke, consume alcohol, or take non-prescription drugs of any kind.
- Treat all sports equipment and venues with respect and keep it in good condition. This includes leaving toilets and changing areas tidy at the end of sessions.
- Inform your coach of any injuries or illness you may have before your session begins.
- Follow the instructions of coaches and staff comply with any safety regulations.. If you are given instructions you don't understand or agree with challenge these in a calm and respectful manner.
- Do not use mobile phones during training, competitions or in changing areas.
- Demonstrate respectful behaviour in all areas of your life including on social media. Remember that what you post, like or share reflects on you as a person and as a member of the Scottish Surfing Federation.
- Surfers should not enter the water unless directed to do so by the coach. Surfboards should only be used under the instruction and supervision of the coach.