

UKA Coaches Code of Conduct

(Down loaded from UKA website – 22nd October 2008)

4. Code of Conduct

4.1 As a responsible athletics coach, a coach will:

- (i) respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and treat everyone equally, regardless of background or ability;
- (ii) place the welfare and safety of the athlete above the development of performance;
- (iii) encourage and guide athletes to accept and take responsibility for their own behaviour and performance;
- (iv) be appropriately qualified and update their coach licence as and when required by UKA;
- (v) ensure that the activities they guide or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual athlete;
- (vi) at the outset, clarify with athletes (and where appropriate their parents or carers) exactly what is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect from the coach;
- (vii) co-operate fully with other colleagues (e.g. other coaches, officials, team managers, sport scientists, doctors, physiotherapists and governing body staff) in the best interests of the athlete;
- (viii) consistently promote positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances;
- (ix) consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance;
- (x) never try to recruit, either overtly or covertly, athletes who are already receiving coaching from another coach (whether or not licensed by UKA).

4.2 In addition, as a responsible athletics coach, a coach must:

- (i) develop appropriate working relationships with athletes (especially under 18s), based on mutual trust and respect. In particular, a coach will not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward;
- (ii) strictly maintain a clear boundary between friendship and intimacy with athletes and not conduct inappropriate relationships with athletes. Relationships with athletes can cause significant problems for other team members and can fracture teams, raising concerns of favouritism, or even of victimisation, should the relationship later end. In particular, due to the very special relationship between coaches and athletes:
 - (a) coaches **must not** allow an intimate personal relationship to develop with any athlete under the age of 16. Any violation of this rule could result in a coach licence being withdrawn or restrictions being imposed on it under condition 6 below;
 - (b) coaches **should not** allow an intimate personal relationship to develop with any athlete between the ages of 16 and 18 (who is coached or supervised by them either directly or indirectly). Athletes aged between 16 and 18 years may be vulnerable and an intimate personal relationship between a coach and such an athlete is never likely to be appropriate. Any complaint received by UKA in relation to an inappropriate relationship between a coach and any athlete aged between 16 and 18 will (as for all complaints) be investigated extremely thoroughly and any violation of this rule could result in a coach licence being withdrawn or restrictions being imposed on it under condition 6 below;
 - (c) it is also **strongly recommended** that coaches do not allow intimate personal relationships to develop with athletes (coached or supervised by them) even if they are over the age of 18.