**LIVINGSTON & WEST LOTHIAN HOCKEY CLUB**

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPORT**

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 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 volunteer with children.

Livingston & West Lothian Hockey Club supports and requires **all** members to observe the following standards of practice, including verbal and non-verbal actions when involved in activities with children.

All concerns about breach of Code of Conduct will be taken seriously and responded to in line with the Livingston & West Lothian Hockey Club Complaints Policy, Disciplinary Procedure and Procedure for Responding to Concerns about Child Abuse.

**Good Practice**

* Make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play.
* Treat all children equally, with respect, dignity and fairness.
* Involve parents/carers wherever possible.
* Build balanced relationships based on mutal trust.
* Include children in the decision-making process wherever possible.
* Always work in an open environment, wherever possible. Avoid private or unobserved situations.
* Put the welfare of each child first before winning or achieving performance goals.
* Be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children.
* Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
* Recognise the development needs and capacity of children.
* Avoid excessive training and competition, pushing children against their will and putting undue pressure on them.

**Practice to be Avoided**

In context of your role within Livingston & West Lothian Hockey Club, the following should be avoided:

* Having “favourites” – this could lead to resentment and jealousy by other children and could be misinterpreted by others.
* Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
* Where possible, doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

**Unacceptable Practice**

In context of your role within Livingston & West Lothian Hockey Club, the following procedures are unacceptable:

* Engaging in sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
* Engaging in rough or physical contact unless it is permitted within the rules of the game or competition.
* Forming intimate emotional, physical or sexual relationships with children.
* Allowing or engaging in touching a child in a sexually suggestive manner.
* Allowing children to swear or use sexualised language unchallenged.
* Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
* Reducing a child to tears as a form of control.
* Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
* Inviting or allowing children to stay with you at your home.
* A Coach and/or other leaders sharing a room alone with a child.

**Sign–up:**

**I have read and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.**

**I have also read and agree to abide by the Livingston & West Lothian Hockey Club Child Protection Policy, Procedures and Guidelines.**

**Full Name & Signature of Volunteer:**

**……….…………………………...................................................................................**

**Date Signed:**

**...…………………………………………………………………………………...........................**

**Witnessed by:**

**…………………………………………………………………………………..............................**

**(Child Protection Officer, if possible)**

**Date Signed:**

**…………………………………………………………………………………..............................**