

## **Angling Trust Code of Practice**

### **For Coaches Licensed by the Angling Trust**

This document is the organisation's Code of Practice, which offers guidance on good practice for everyone involved in the sport of angling, whether they are Angling Trust staff, officials and volunteers

We all have a responsibility to promote and support high standards within angling. We all play a vital role in supporting the development of both the sport and those who participate in it. We must ensure positive experiences to all participants and therefore impact the likelihood that those participants continue in angling and achieve their potential. We must demonstrate a high degree of honesty, integrity and competence at all levels. The need for staff, officials and volunteers to understand and act upon their responsibilities is of critical importance to angling, as is the need to protect the key concept of participation for fun and enjoyment as well as achievement.

### **This Code of Practice reflects the following key principles**

#### **Rights**

This outlines the basic rights of individuals to take part in Angling Trust.

#### **Relationships**

This offers guidance on personal relationships in angling, in particular between people in positions of influence and participants.

#### **Personal Standards**

This outlines the standards of personal conduct and behavior expected within the sport at all levels.

#### **Professional Standards**

This details the commitment to best practice and ongoing professional development expected of all those in positions of authority within Angling Trust.

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Rights	Coaches must respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in angling.	<p>Coaches should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assist in the creation of an environment where every individual has the opportunity to participate in angling.</li> <li>create and maintain an environment free of fear and harassment.</li> <li>recognise the rights of all anglers to be treated as individuals.</li> <li>recognise the rights of anglers to confer with other coaches and experts.</li> <li>promote the concept of a balanced lifestyle, supporting the well-being of the angler both in and out of the sport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treat all individuals in angling with respect at all times.</li> <li>Do not discriminate on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, disability, sexual identity, age, occupation, religious beliefs or political opinion.</li> <li>Do not condone or allow any form of discrimination to go unchallenged.</li> <li>Do not publicly criticise or engage in demeaning descriptions of others.</li> <li>Be discreet in any conversations about anglers, coaches or any other individuals.</li> <li>Communicate with and provide feedback to anglers in a manner that reflects respect and care.</li> </ul>
<b>Principle</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Relationships	Coaches must develop a relationship with anglers (and others) based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect	<p>Coaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>must not engage in behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, bullying).</li> <li>should promote the welfare and best interests of their anglers.</li> <li>must avoid sexual intimacy with performers either while coaching them or in the period of time immediately following the end of the coaching relationship.</li> <li>must take action if they have a concern about the behaviour of an adult towards a child.</li> <li>should empower anglers to be responsible for their own decisions.</li> <li>should clarify the nature of the coaching services being offered to anglers.</li> <li>should communicate and cooperate with other organisations and individuals in the best interests of anglers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the physical needs of anglers, especially the developmental stage and needs of children and young people, and ensure that training loads and intensities are appropriate.</li> <li>Ensure that physical contact is appropriate and necessary, and is carried out within recommended guidelines (provided by AT) with the angler's full consent and approval.</li> <li>Do not engage in any form of sexually related contact with any angler for whom they have responsibility. This is strictly forbidden as is sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms. Coaches are in a position of power and trust in relation to anglers. By entering into an intimate/sexual relationship with an angler, a coach may be deemed guilty of abusing this position and, in relation to children and young people, this may also be unlawful.</li> <li>Inform parents or guardians immediately if you are at all concerned about the welfare of a child, unless there are concerns that this would not be in the interests of the child.</li> <li>Know and understand the relevant AT child protection/safeguarding policies and procedures in this regard and adhere to them.</li> <li>Follow the reporting procedures laid down by the AT if you have a concern – non-action is unacceptable.</li> <li>Arrange to transfer an angler to another coach if it is clear that an inappropriate or intimate relationship is developing.</li> <li>Discuss with parents and other interested parties the potential impact of the programme on the angler.</li> <li>Respect anglers' opinions when making decisions about their participation in angling.</li> <li>Encourage anglers to take responsibility for their own development and actions.</li> <li>Allow anglers to discuss and participate in the decision-making process.</li> <li>Discuss and agree with anglers what information is confidential.</li> <li>Inform anglers or their parents/guardians of the requirements of the sport.</li> <li>Inform anglers or their parents/guardians of any potential costs involved in accessing the coaching services on offer.</li> <li>Be aware of and communicate on any conflict of interest as soon as it becomes apparent.</li> <li>Do not work with any other coach's performer without first discussing or agreeing it with both the coach and the performer involved.</li> <li>Identify and agree with anglers which other experts or organisations could offer appropriate services.</li> </ul>

Principle	Statement	Issues	Actions
Responsibilities – personal standards	Coaches must demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times	Coaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be fair, honest and considerate to anglers and others in the sport</li> <li>• should project an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency</li> <li>• must be positive role models for anglers at all times.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate within the rules and the spirit of angling.</li> <li>• Educate anglers on issues relating to the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport and cooperate fully with UK Sport and AT policies.</li> <li>• Maintain the same level of interest and support when an angler is sick or injured.</li> <li>• Display high standards in use of language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation.</li> <li>• Encourage anglers to display the same qualities.</li> <li>• Do not smoke, drink alcohol or use recreational drugs before or while coaching. This reflects a negative image and could compromise the safety of your anglers.</li> <li>• Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in angling.</li> </ul>
Principle	Statement	Issues	Actions
Responsibilities – professional standards	To maximise the benefits and minimise the risks to anglers, coaches must attain a high level of competence through qualifications, and a commitment to ongoing training that ensures safe and correct practice	Coaches will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure the environment is as safe as possible, taking into account and minimising possible risks.</li> <li>• promote the execution of safe and correct practice.</li> <li>• be professional and accept responsibility for their actions.</li> <li>• make a commitment to providing a quality service to their anglers.</li> <li>• actively promote the positive benefits to society of participation in angling, including the positive contribution sport can make to achieving improved outcomes for children and young people.</li> <li>• contribute to the development of coaching as a profession by exchanging knowledge and ideas with others, and by working in partnership with other agencies and professionals.</li> <li>• gain AT coaching qualifications appropriate to the level at which they coach..</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the guidelines of the AT.</li> <li>• Plan all sessions so they meet the needs of the anglers and are progressive and appropriate.</li> <li>• Maintain appropriate records of your anglers.</li> <li>• Recognise and accept when it is appropriate to refer an angler to another coach or specialist.</li> <li>• Seek to achieve the highest level of qualification available.</li> <li>• Demonstrate commitment to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) by undertaking/attending learning opportunities to maintain up-to-date knowledge of technical developments in angling.</li> <li>• Undertake/attend CPD opportunities to maintain up-to-date knowledge and understanding of other issues that might impact on both you and your anglers.</li> <li>• Be aware of the social issues and how angling can contribute to local, regional or national initiatives.</li> <li>• Actively participate in recruitment and education opportunities in angling.</li> <li>• Actively contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to improve the standards and quality of coaching both angling and sport in general.</li> <li>• Practise in an open and transparent fashion that encourages other coaches to contribute to or learn from your knowledge and experience.</li> <li>• Engage in self-analysis and reflection to identify your professional needs.</li> <li>• Seek CPD opportunities to develop your coaching skills and competencies, and update your knowledge.</li> <li>• Manage your lifestyle and coaching commitments to avoid burnout that might impair your performance.</li> <li>• Do not assume responsibility for any role for which you are not qualified or prepared.</li> <li>• Do not misrepresent your level of qualification.</li> <li>• Promote good coaching practice in others and challenge any poor practice that you become aware of.</li> </ul>

## Implementation

The Angling Trust recognises that a code of practice in isolation is of limited value and does not provide significant impact and support. In order for any code of practice to be of significant value it must be supported by other relevant policies and procedures.

The Angling Trust code of practice is supported by the coaching standards established in the UKCC 1<sup>st</sup>4Sport Certificate in Coaching Angling, the Angling Trust Coach Licence and is guided by the Safeguarding Standards set out in the Angling Trust Safeguarding Children and Young People in Angling Policy.