



CHEERSPORT

I R E L A N D

CODES OF BEHAVIOUR POLICY

1. Introduction

Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all children. These Codes of Behaviour establish clear expectations for Coaches, Athletes, Parents/Guardians, Volunteers, and Committee Members/Staff. They apply to all CSI activities, including training, competitions, travel, online engagement, and club events.

2. Purpose of the Codes

These Codes are designed to promote best practice, safeguard children, support positive experiences, prevent harm, and ensure consistent standards across all CSI-affiliated clubs.

3. Scope

These Codes apply to all members, staff, volunteers, parents, athletes, event personnel, and representatives of CSI.

4. Code of Behaviour for Coaches

Coaches play a vital role in creating positive environments for children. CSI requires coaches to maintain the highest standards of integrity, respect, and professionalism.

4.1 Coaches must:

- Prioritise the welfare and safety of all athletes.
- Treat all children equally and with respect.
- Use appropriate and non-abusive language.
- Follow CSI's Supervision Policy at all times.
- Hold appropriate qualifications and maintain training requirements.
- Follow all safeguarding, reporting, and child protection procedures.
- Maintain professional boundaries with athletes and parents.
- Ensure physical contact is appropriate, necessary, and explained.
- Never engage in sexualised behaviour, comments, or relationships with athletes.
- Ensure training environments are safe and inclusive.
- Report concerns immediately to the Club or National DLP.

4.2 Coaches must not:

- Shout at, ridicule, or belittle athletes.
- Use physical punishment or aggressive behaviour.
- Engage in private messaging with children outside approved channels.
- Transport children alone without prior approval and supervision.
- Consume alcohol or drugs before or during CSI activities.

5. Code of Behaviour for Athletes

Athletes must respect coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials, and promote a positive and inclusive culture.

5.1 Athletes must:

- Show respect to coaches, teammates, and opponents.
- Listen to instructions and follow safety rules.
- Use respectful language and behaviour.
- Report any concerns or bullying.
- Support an inclusive and positive team environment.

5.2 Athletes must not:

- Engage in bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- Use abusive or inappropriate language.
- Participate in dangerous behaviour that puts others at risk.

6. Code of Behaviour for Parents/Guardians

Parents and guardians are fundamental in supporting children and helping maintain a positive environment.

6.1 Parents/Guardians must:

- Support their child's involvement in sport positively.
- Communicate respectfully with coaches and staff.
- Ensure children arrive on time and are collected promptly.
- Help children follow CSI Codes and safety rules.
- Use official communication channels for club matters.

6.2 Parents/Guardians must not:

- Verbally abuse coaches, volunteers, athletes, or officials.
- Disrupt training or competitions with negative behaviour.
- Post inappropriate or negative comments online.
- Demand special treatment for their child.

7. Code of Behaviour for Volunteers

Volunteers support the safe running of CSI activities and must model respectful and safe behaviour.

7.1 Volunteers must:

- Follow safeguarding policies and training.
- Act in a child-centred manner.
- Support safe supervision and club operations.
- Report concerns to the Club or National DLP.

7.2 Volunteers must not:

- Engage in inappropriate or unprofessional behaviour.
- Use their role to gain access to children for personal reasons.
- Share confidential information.

8. Code of Behaviour for Committee Members and Staff

CSI leaders must act with integrity, transparency, and fairness at all times.

8.1 Committee/Staff must:

- Act in the best interest of children and the organisation.
- Promote safeguarding and compliance.
- Maintain confidentiality and data protection standards.
- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Support clubs in maintaining high safeguarding standards.

8.2 Committee/Staff must not:

- Use their position for personal gain.
- Engage in inappropriate behaviour or abuse of power.

9. Breaches of the Codes

Breaches may result in disciplinary action under CSI's Disciplinary Policy, including suspension or removal from roles.

10. Review

These Codes will be reviewed every two years or following changes in legislation or Sport Ireland guidance.

11. Approval

This policy was approved by the Board of Cheer Sport Ireland on: 11/07/2026

Signed:

FIONA COLLUMB, President/Chairperson

JOAN HEAPES, National Children's Officer