



South African Orienteering Federation (“SAOF”) - Code of Conduct for Coaches

Good coaching practice reflects these principles:

- **Rights – Coaches must:**
 - Respect and support the rights of every individual to take part in orienteering
 - Respect the needs of the athletes before the needs of the sport
 - Create an environment of fun and enjoyment which is free of fear, discrimination or harassment
 - Provide orienteering experiences which are matched to the athletes’ ages and abilities, as well as their physical, behavioural and emotional development
 - Be discreet in the handling of any information about athletes and coaches
 - Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner to all athletes, both during coaching sessions and at events
- **Relationships – Coaches must:**
 - Not engage in any behaviour which constitutes any form of abuse (physical, sexual or emotional), neglect or bullying
 - Promote the welfare of their athletes and discuss with the athletes, their *parents/carers and other coaches the potential impact of the programme on the athlete
 - Take action if they have any welfare concerns about any of their athletes by following the appropriate procedures
 - Encourage athletes to take responsibility for their own development
 - Develop an awareness of nutrition as part of an overall education in lifestyle management
 - Communicate fully with athletes and their *parents/carers the nature of the coaching programme and costs involved
 - Recognise that it is illegal for athletes under 18 to drink alcohol or for those under 16 to smoke; coaches should actively discourage both
 - Be aware of the policies and procedures outlined in British Orienteering Federation ‘O-Safe, A Guide to the Welfare of Children & Vulnerable Adults’ and undertake to apply them where possible and as adapted for the South Africa context

*consultation with parents/carers applies only for minors i.e. U18’s.
- **Responsibilities (Personal Standards) – Coaches must:**
 - Be fair, considerate and honest in their dealings with everyone
 - Display high standards of language, manner, punctuality and preparation
 - Be a positive role model for athletes and other coaches
 - Promote respect for the environment
 - Promote an image of a healthy lifestyle (do not smoke, take banned substances or drink alcohol whilst coaching or responsible for athletes)

In the case of alcohol:

 - When a coach is leading a tour coaching a group which includes minors, then the coach must not drink any alcohol at any time. If a coach does not wish to comply with this rule then they must not coach on such tours.
 - With regards to coaching senior groups, when the coach is undertaking the duties of a coach they should not drink any alcohol.
- **Responsibilities (Professional Standards) – Coaches must:**
 - Be committed to providing enjoyable and quality activities for their athletes
 - Follow the guidelines provided by SAOF for coaching activities
 - Be committed to the ongoing development of their knowledge and skills
 - Ensure that their South African Orienteering Licence to Practice is valid
 - Ensure all athletes are coached in a safe environment where there is no unacceptable risk of injury, with adequate first aid readily to hand
 - Be aware of the British Orienteering Federation procedures for ‘Trips Away with Children and Vulnerable Adults’ and undertake to apply them where possible and as adapted for the South Africa context

All coaches should be aware that a serious breach of the coaches’ code of conduct could result in the coaching licence being revoked.

As a qualified Coach I can confirm that I have read, signed and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for coaches as required by the SAOF

Name: _____

Signed _____

Date:

Acknowledgement

The SAOF wishes to thank the British Orienteering Federation (“BOF”) for allowing us to base the South African Coaches Code of Conduct on the BOF coaches code of conduct. The material above is reproduced with their kind permission.

It should be noted that the two external references to BOF guides and procedures will be replaced in due course with Specific South African material once this has been developed by either the SAOF or the South African Coaching Commission. It is also the intention to develop a SAOF Disciplinary Policy and Procedures document in order to deal appropriately and fairly with any alleged misconduct by coaches .

External References

The two BOF documents referred to above can be found as follows

- 1) BOF ‘O-Safe, A Guide to the Welfare of Children & Vulnerable Adults

http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/governance_policies_osafe.pdf

- 2) BOF procedures for ‘Trips Away with Children and Vulnerable Adults’

http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/governance_policies_tripsaway.pdf