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

This Code of Conduct has a number of important functions. It will

* set out what behaviour is acceptable and unacceptable
* define the standards of practice expected from those to whom it applies
* form the basis for challenging and improving practice
* help to safeguard staff/volunteers by encouraging them to adhere to agreed standards of practice
* set out for children and parents/carers the standards of practice which they and the organisation should expect from those who work/volunteer with children.

The Scottish Tug of War Association supports and requires allmember clubs to observe the following standards of practice, including verbal and non-verbal actions when involved in activities with children.

All concerns about breach of this Code of Conduct will be taken seriously and responded to in line with the Scottish Tug of War Association Complaints Policy.

**GOOD PRACTICE**

* Makesport 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 mutual trust.
* Include children in the decision-making process wherever possible.
* Always work in an openenvironment, 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 developmental 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**

Asa STOWA Registered 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 amountsof time alone with children away from others.
* Entering children’s bedrooms on trips away from home, unless in an emergency situation or in the interest of health and safety. If it is necessary to enter rooms, knock and say that you are coming in. The doorshould remain open, if appropriate.
* Where possible, doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

**UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE**

As a STOWA Registered Club, the following practices 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 sexualrelationships with children.
* Allowingor 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/orother leader sharing a room alone with a child.

It is the responsibility of everybody involved in the Club to ensure that it remains a safe place, free from discrimination, fear and where possible, risk. These are the standards of acceptable behaviour which must be upheld by all members involved and those participating in club run activities and competitions.

* Pullers should respect coaches and helpers
* Pullers should not criticise or argue with coaches and helpers
* Pullers should respect the rights, dignity and worth of all club members – regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
* Whether you win or lose, do so with dignity. Show respect and acknowledge opponents and officials – shake hands after the game.
* Do not walk across a mat or area if a pull is in progress.
* There is zero tolerance for bad language, name calling and bullying.
* Pullersshould participate for their own enjoyment and benefit – not just to please parents and coaches.
* Speak to the coach if you have an issue, feel unsafe or are concerned about someone else. Do not expect or accept ‘special’ favours from a coach or person involved in club management