# **Athy RFC Coaching Policy**

# Purpose of this document

The purpose of this guidance document is to introduce coaches to the training that is available and the other educational resources that are available to them. There are various courses that are available to do via Leinster Rugby and the IRFU, as well as in-house/in-club training. There are also online resources available from many sources including World Rugby. This document aims to guide you to what is necessary and what will help your development as a coach. It also sets out limitations and expectations for everyone involved.

# Coaching & Ownership of the Teams

The club is run, and the teams are coached, by fantastic volunteers. Simply put, without the amazing volunteerism there would be no club. Most of the volunteers are players & ex-players and/or parents of mini or youth players. We appreciate every volunteer and the work they do for the club.

From time to time, the club may decide to change the coaching structure and / or introduce new coaches to one or more teams. To that end, the club asks that the volunteers bear in mind that the teams are part of the club. The executive committee are volunteers and are responsible for running all aspects of the club. They will make all decisions about coaching positions and structures for all teams in the club. Executive Committee decisions will be final in these matters.

# Training Recommendations & Requirements

**The following are required for all coaches who are volunteering / working at any age level in the Club.**

1. A working knowledge of the IRFU Concussion protocols.  <https://www.irishrugby.ie/playing-the-game/medical/irfu-concussion-protocols/>
2. A working knowledge of the IRFU medical reporting procedures and how they interact with the Athy RFC medical reporting procedures. <http://www.irishrugby.ie/playingthegame/injury-reporting.php>
3. A working knowledge of the ATHY RFC Code of Ethics and other Club rules & Policies

**The following are also required for all coaches who are volunteering / working with under 18.5 teams in the Club.**

1. A working knowledge of the IRFU Child Safeguarding Policy
2. Online Tusla – Introduction to Children First <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>
3. Garda vetting / Clearance for anybody over the age of 16 working with children.

**The following are recommended for all coaches who are volunteering / working with teams in the Club.**

1. Leinster Rugby or IRFU Age Appropriate Coaching Award(s) or Training Courses.
2. Periodic Leinster Rugby Free Workshops on various aspects of the game.
3. Periodic Athy RFC workshops and “Coach the Coaches” sessions organised in the club.

# Other sources of Information and Guidance

If you are unsure about anything or have questions, please look to the following for assistance

* Athy RFC Rugby Committee or Executive Committee Members
* Athy RFC Youth & Mini Coordinators
* Athy RFC Child Welfare / Safeguarding Officer
* IRFU Website <https://www.irishrugby.ie/>
* Leinster Rugby Website <https://www.leinsterrugby.ie/>
* World Rugby Website <https://www.world.rugby/?lang=en>
* Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children, <http://www.irishrugby.ie/playingthegame/development/safeguarding/recruitment.php>
* Sport Ireland Code of Ethics should be used where the IRFU has not published specific guidelines, in particular with regard to the principles to “safeguarding children from harm”.

# Rules for Required and Recommended Training

Coaching should be fun for everyone involved, so we want to ensure that the rules are not seen as too rigid as to scare people off from getting involved. The more volunteers we have in the Club the greater the club will be.

Items A to E above should be commenced and completed as soon as possible / practicable within the first season you are involved

For those working with mini and youths’ teams, item F (Garda Vetting) is compulsory. It must be completed as soon as possible. The child welfare officer will assist you through the process which is not onerous.

For anyone wishing to complete Leinster Rugby or IRFU coaching courses please speak to the rugby coordinators or a rugby committee member about arrangements.

The other items involve reading and upskilling and coaches should aim to read them during the first season and periodically after that to keep abreast of the knowledge and advice in them.

#### Revision History for this document

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| Version | Comment | Prepared | Reviewed | Approved | Date |
| 1.0 | Draft Issue | AG | HD BC PG |  | 26-02-2020 |
| 2.0 | Draft Issue | AG | SM PG |  | 02-09-2020 |
| 3.0 | Draft Issue – Comments from PG, PK & SM included | AG | Exec Committee |  | 09/09/2020 |
| 4.0 | First Issue | AG | Exec Committee |  | 14/09/2020 |

#### Distribution List

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| 1 | Executive Committee |  |  |
| 2 | Team Coaches / Captains |  |  |
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