



# Code of Conduct for Campettes / Children / Young People

Michaela Foundation is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members and participants. Michaela Foundation believes that it is important that staff, volunteers, participants and parents associated with the organisation should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the work of Michaela Foundation with Orla McIntyre, Operations Manager and Designated Children's Officer.

This code should be shared with all Children / Young People participating in Michaela Foundation activities. Campettes and their parents must read the code and agree to abide by it when registering for Camp.

## **Purpose:**

To ensure children and young people are treated fairly by all adults working with them and other children at Michaela Foundation and know what is expected of them as individuals.

## **Basic principles**

This code of behaviour for children and young people is intended to:

- identify acceptable behaviour for children and young people;
- promote self-respect and self-control;
- raise children's and young people's self-esteem and self-confidence;
- encourage individual responsibility for behaviour and outline the consequences of poor behaviour;
- encourage children and young people to recognise and respect the rights of others;
- encourage cooperation at all times and in all situations;
- promote the values of honesty, fairness and respect;
- anticipate and resolve any conflict that may arise;
- ensure that children and young people are aware of when sanctions will be put into place.

Children/ Young People have the right to:



- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be listened to.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Privacy.
- Enjoy your sport in a protective environment.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.
- Be protected from abuse by other member or outside sources.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed.
- Ask for help.
- Have any concerns taken seriously and acted on.

Children and young people are expected to:

- cooperate with each other and give their peers a second chance
- be friendly
- listen to each other
- be helpful
- follow this code of behaviour and other rules
- have good manners
- join in
- respect each other's differences
- treat staff and volunteers with respect
- report anything that worries or concerns them to the Camp /Event Children's Officers and/or National Children's Officers Úna Kelly [una@michaelafoundation.com](mailto:una@michaelafoundation.com) Anne McAreavey [anne@michaelafoundation.com](mailto:anne@michaelafoundation.com)
- take care of equipment/resources owned by Michaela Foundation and/or the host venues

Children and young people shouldn't:

- pick on or make fun of each other
- bully each other
- stare at others to make them feel uncomfortable
- yell or shout at others to be abusive
- use equipment to be abusive or to cyberbully – for example, by using mobile phones to send nasty messages, taking and sharing photos without permission, sending nasty emails, or “trolling” (leaving unkind comments on a webpage or social network profile).

Breach of this code of conduct

It is the responsibility of Úna Kelly (Operations Manager and National Children's Officer) to ensure that all children and young people attending Michaela Foundation are informed of this code of conduct and to confirm with them that they have seen, understood and agreed to follow it. Children, young people and parents must also be made aware of the consequences if they breach the code.



The Children's Officers at Camp should ensure that all Campettes and leaders are aware of the code.

### **Dealing with breaches of the Code - Following the traffic light system**

1. If a child or young person breaches the code of conduct, the most appropriate sanction for a minor or first time breach will be to remind him or her about the code of conduct and ask him or her to comply with it.

Children and young people will be given the opportunity to reflect, enabling them to plan a positive response, with support from either staff, volunteers or leaders.

2. If, having followed the above step, the child or young person continues to exhibit inappropriate behaviour, she or he should be referred to the appropriate member of staff who will give her or him a formal, green light warning;

Supportive interventions may need to be identified at this stage. The action should also be recorded in the incident book and parents/carers informed;

3. Any further persistent inappropriate behaviour will result in a more serious sanction being imposed (e.g. restriction/suspension from the project facilities). This is the yellow light warning;

Again, supportive interventions may need to be identified at this stage. This action should also be recorded and shared with the parents

4. If these interventions are still not effective in helping the child/young person to change his or her behaviour, a red light warning may be needed, with further sanctions. It may be that at this point, Michaela Foundation will discuss with the child or young person and his or her family their removal from the camp/event and a possible referral for further support from other services

### **Use of child protection procedures**

If staff / volunteers at Michaela Foundation become concerned that a child's behaviour suggests either that he/she may be at risk of significant harm or that he/she may present a risk of significant harm to other children, Michaela Foundation's child protection procedures will be followed and a referral may be made to the local authority children's social care department.

Such a referral would be discussed with the child and his/her family at the earliest possible opportunity, except in situations where this may place a child at any further risk or interfere with a police investigation.