

Codes of Acceptable Conduct

PLAYERS

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain; coach or manager talk to the official during a break or after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit so will you!
- **Be a good sport.** Applaud all good plays whether they are your team, opponent or the other team.
- Treat all players, as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play for the fun of it, and not just to please parents and coaches.
- **Never use derogatory or abusive language.**

PARENTS & SPECTATORS

- Encourage children to participate. Do not force them. Remember that organised sport is for children's enjoyment, not yours.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage players to always participate by/to the rules and official's decisions.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game. Positive comments are motivational.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good performance and efforts from each team. Congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect officials' decision and teach children to do likewise. Respect for your team's opponents – without them there would be no game.
- Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities. Do not use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- **Never use derogatory or abusive language.**

ADMINISTRATORS & OFFICIALS

- Give all children an equal chance to participate.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules suit the age, ability and maturity level of players.
- Provide quality supervision and instruction for players.
- Remember that children participate for enjoyment. Don't over-emphasise awards.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviours and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure everyone involved in junior sport emphasises fair play, not winning at all costs.
- Give a Code of Conduct sheet to officials, coaches, players, parents and spectators and encourage them to stick to it.
- Think before you speak. Don't say anything that could disadvantage anyone within your club or association.
- Compliment and encourage all players.
- For referees: be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions. Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than errors.
- Be a good sport yourself. **Actions speak louder than words.**
- **Never use derogatory or abusive language.**

COACHES

- Remember that children participate for pleasure and that winning is only part of the fun. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing.
- Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Teach your players to always follow the rules, which are unbreakable.
- Whenever possible, group players to ensure that everyone has a reasonable chance of success.
- Avoid overplaying the talented players. The just average need and deserve equal time.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents and for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of children.
- **Never use derogatory or abusive language.**