

# **WSPSSA Codes of Conduct**

Codes of Behaviour provide a supportive framework which promotes fair play and appropriate behaviour in school sport. These codes apply to players, teachers, coaches, principals, parents, officials and spectators who together provide the environment in which school sport is played. The following Codes apply to school sport at all levels and are designed to highlight:

- the principles of enjoyment, satisfaction and safe play in sport
- that students participate for their own sake and not to fulfil the desires of parents, adult groups or peers
- the encouragement of student participation in sport and, in so doing, contribute to higher levels of health and physical fitness.

## **PLAYERS' CODE**

- Play for the fun of it.
- Play by the rules and always abide by the decisions of officials.
- Control your temper. Make no criticism either by word or gesture. Deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
- Be willing to train and prepare for the game or competition. Preparation helps prevent injury and increases the level of enjoyment.
- Play only when you are fully fit. To play with injury will handicap your team, and may expose you to the risk of further and more serious injury.
- Be a good sport. Applaud the good play of your team mates and that of your opponents.
- At all times cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents, for without them you do not have a competition.
- Remember the goals of the game are to have fun and improve your skills. Be modest in success and generous in defeat.

## **TEACHERS' – COACHES' CODE**

- Encourage students to develop basic skills in a variety of sports and avoid over specialisation in positional play during their formative years.
- Create opportunities to teach appropriate sporting behaviour as well as basic skills.
- Teach your players to play by the rules. The rules are designed to maximise enjoyment and safety.
- Give all players equal time in the game or competition. They need and deserve it.
- Remember that students play for the fun and enjoyment and that winning should not be over emphasised. Never ridicule students for making mistakes or losing a competition.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the participants.

- When scheduling and determining the duration of training sessions and competitions, take into consideration the age and maturity levels of the students.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow medical advice when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Remember that students need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
- Keep abreast of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development.
- Develop in students an awareness of the physical fitness values of sports and their life-long health and recreational value

## **PRINCIPALS' AND SCHOOL EXECUTIVES' CODE**

- Ensure that all students have equal opportunities to participate in sport, regardless of ability, gender, age and disability.
- Ensure that safety standards and procedures for all sports comply with the Department of Education and Training support document 'Safety Guidelines for the Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools'.
- Scheduling and length of competitions should take into consideration the age, ability and maturity levels of the students.
- Students play for fun and enjoyment and winning should not be over emphasised.
- Always emphasise good sportsmanship and highlight appropriate behaviour.
- Distribute and promote these Codes of Behaviour to teachers, players, officials and parents.
- Ensure appropriate supervision is provided by competent coaches, instructors and officials, capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Promote respect for all opponents and condemn unsporting behaviour.

## **PARENTS' CODE**

- Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- If children are interested in sport, encourage them to participate. Refrain from forcing an unwilling child to participate.
- Remember that children participate in organised school sports for their enjoyment and fulfilment, not yours.
- Teach your child that honest effort is as important as winning so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage your child to work towards skill improvement. Never ridicule your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Always encourage the principle of good sportsmanship.

- Children learn best by example. Applaud good play by all individuals and all teams.
- Do not publicly question the officials' judgement and never their honesty.
- Appreciate the contribution and commitment of teachers in coaching positions. They give their time and resources to provide sporting activities for your child and deserve your support.
- Have realistic expectations for your child and her or his team. Do not expect more than they can give.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities. Condemn the use of violence in any form.

## **OFFICIALS' CODE**

- Encourage rule changes that will match the skill level and needs of the players and reinforce the principle of participation for fun and enjoyment
- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Be meticulous in penalising dangerous and foul play.
- Censure unsporting behaviour and promote respect for opponents.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development.
- Ensure that games are played in an atmosphere conducive to good sportsmanship and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour, both on and off the field, is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

## **SPECTATORS' CODE**

- Students play organised sport for their own enjoyment. They are not playing to specifically entertain you.
- Always respect the decisions of officials.
- Never encourage physical or verbal abuse of players, coaches, officials or other spectators.
- Applaud good play by your own team and that of the opposing team.
- Show respect for your opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Never ridicule a player for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Encourage players to always play according to the rules.