



Sample codes of conduct

Codes of conduct are an essential part of sport rage prevention. They outline an agreed standard of behaviour for your club's administrators, coaches, officials, players and parents. There are three important considerations for clubs:

- 1 Develop codes of conduct in consultation with your national or state body. Alternatively use the samples below, modifying them to suit your club.
- 2 Gain compliance by having members sign the codes of conduct.
- 3 Remind members of the codes on a regular basis.

Administrator

- I will provide opportunities for players to be involved in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision-making related to their activity
- I will create pathways for players to participate not just as a player but also as a coach, referee, administrator etc
- I will ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of players
- I will ensure quality supervision and instruction for players
- I will remember that players participate for their enjoyment and benefit. I will not over emphasise awards
- I will help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help to improve the standards of coaching and officiating
- I will ensure that everyone involved in sport emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs
- I will distribute a code of conduct to players, coaches, officials and parents and encourage them to follow it
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior matches
- I will not allow the unlawful supply of alcohol at training, games or club functions
- I will not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials or spectators
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background
- I will promote adherence to anti-doping policies.

Official

- I will place the safety and welfare of players above all else
- I will show concern and caution towards sick and injured players
- I will give all players a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- I will be impartial, consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions
- I will accept responsibility for my actions and decisions
- I will condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for the individuality of players
- I will avoid any situations which may lead to or be construed as a conflict of interest
- I will be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance and ensure my comments are positive and supportive
- I will be a good sport as I understand that actions speak louder than words
- I will always respect, remain loyal to and support other officials
- I will keep up to date with the latest 'Laws of the Game', trends and principles of their application
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards players or other officials
- I will refrain from any form of sexual harassment towards players or other officials
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior matches
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.

Coach

- I will remember that players participate for enjoyment and winning is only part of the fun
- I will never ridicule or yell at players for making a mistake or not winning
- I will be reasonable in my demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm
- I will operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach my players to do the same
- I will ensure that the time players spend with me is a positive experience. All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities
- I will avoid overplaying the talented players and understand that the average players need and deserve equal time
- I will not use bad language nor will I harass players, officials, spectators or other coaches
- I will ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players
- I will display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport including opponents, referees, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. I will encourage my players to do the same.
- I will show concern and caution toward sick and injured players and follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition
- I will obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young players
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior matches
- I will not allow the unlawful supply of alcohol at training, games or club functions
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background
- I will promote adherence to anti-doping policies.

Parent

- I won't pressure my child in any way – I know that this is their game not mine
- I will not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- I will encourage my child to play within the rules and respect officials' and coaches' decisions – no matter what
- I will teach my child to respect the efforts of their opponents

- I will remember that children learn best by example so I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents
- I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort
- I will focus on my child's efforts and performance – not the score
- I will thank the coaches, officials and other volunteers who give their time to conduct the event for my child
- I will help when asked by a coach or official
- I won't criticise or ridicule my child's performance after the game
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior matches
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.

Player

- I will always play by the rules
- I will never argue with an official. If I disagree with a decision I will inform the captain, coach or manager during a break or after the competition
- I will control my temper. I understand that verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players and deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport
- I will work equally hard for myself and/or my team
- I will be a good sport and applaud all good plays whether they are made by my team or the opposition
- I will treat all players in my sport as I like to be treated. I will not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor
- I will cooperate with my coach, team mates and opponents
- I will display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- I will participate for my own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior matches
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- I will thank the opposition and officials at the end of the game
- I will comply with anti-doping policies.

These sample codes of conduct have been adapted from NSW Sport and Recreation's sport rage prevention pilot program with Blacktown District Soccer Football Association and the Australian Sports Commission's codes of behaviour.

The resource is of a general nature only and is not intended to be relied upon, nor as a substitute for professional advice.

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