

Codes of Behaviour

FOR PLAYERS

- Be a good sport.
- Play for enjoyment.
- Work hard for your team as well as yourself.
- Treat all team-mates and opponents as you enjoy being treated yourself.
- Play by the rules.
- Co-operate with team and game officials.
- Control your behaviour on and off the field.
- Learn to value honest effort, skilled performance and improvement.

FOR TEACHERS AND COACHES

- Set a good example for your players.
- Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual skills.
- Teach a wide range of team skills.
- Ensure that the sport is appropriate for the age group and the skill development level of the players involved.
- Teach your players to be friendly towards officials and opponents.
- Give all interested students a chance to participate in training and in games.
- Remove from the field of play any of your players whose behaviour is not acceptable.
- Keep your own knowledge of coaching and the developments of the game up to date.

FOR SPECTATORS

- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour.
- Remember children play for enjoyment. Don't let your behaviour detract from their enjoyment.
- Let game officials conduct events without interference.
- Support skilled performances and team play with generous applause.
- Demonstrate respect for opposing players and their supporters.

FOR PARENTS

- Encourage participation by your children.
- Provide a model of good sports behaviour for your child to copy.
- Be courteous in your communication with players, team officials, game officials and sport administrators.
- Encourage honest effort, skilled performance and team loyalty.
- Make any new parents feel welcome on all occasions.
- Do not interfere with the conduct of any events.

FOR THE MEDIA

- Provide coverage of children's sport as well as reporting adult sport.
- Be aware of the difference between adult sports programs and children's sports programs.
- Children are not miniature professionals and adults should not place unfair expectations upon them.
- Place in proper perspective the isolated incidents of unsportsmanlike behaviour rather than make such incidents the 'highlight' of the event.
- Focus upon children's fair play and their honest effort.
- Identify and report on the benefits of the children participating in sport.
- Be aware of the difference between the goals of amateur sports and those of professional sports. Make the readers, viewers and listeners aware of these differences. Make it clear that the professional is an entertainer and wage earner and this, on occasions, may be reflected in the professional athlete's behaviour.

FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND OFFICIALS

- Ensure rules, equipment, training schedules and games are safe and match the needs and skill level of the children involved.
- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sport are available for all children.
- Involve children in planning, evaluation and decision-making.
- Ensure everyone involved, including parents, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play and appropriate behaviour.
- Encourage a positive attitude towards children's sport
 - (I) emphasise fun and enjoyment
 - (II) encourage both teams
 - (III) set a good example
- Be consistent, courteous and helpful toward all participants.
- Use commonsense to ensure that the 'spirit of the game' for children is not lost by overcalling violations.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique, and that these officials are given the opportunity to improve their coaching and officiating.
- Remember that children play for enjoyment, downplay the importance of rewards.
- Avoid allowing children's sports programs to become primarily spectator entertainment. Focus on the needs of the participants rather than the enjoyment of the spectators.
- Distribute a Code of Behaviour sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players and the media, and take other positive steps to ensure people understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in children's sport.