



## POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES RELATING TO:

**SCHOOL SPORT**

FIRST IMPLEMENTED 2011

LAST REVIEWED JULY 2015

**Responsibility**

The principal is legally responsible for the administration and supervision of school sport and sporting teams. In the implementation of school sport the principal will consult the staff, school board and parents.

The legal obligations of school authorities and teachers is to take reasonable steps to prevent physical injury to students in relation to all school activities both inside and outside of school hours.

NB: Catholic Church Insurances Limited has advised that a school which allows its name to be used to identify sporting teams could be the subject of litigation on the assumption that such a sport activity was, indeed, a school activity.

1. The Principal should ensure that team officials appointed by the school are provided with the following information:
  - their role and responsibilities
  - organisation and safety procedures
  - details of procedures to be followed in an emergency
  - Names of officials must be recorded in school records
2. Team officials appointed by the school are provided with the following cover -
  - Voluntary workers personal accident cover through Catholic Church Insurance
  - Public liability insurance under the Archdiocesan group policy or the Diocese of Port Pirie group policy. This covers all systemic school and most colleges.
3. Employees, contractors and volunteers shall take reasonable care to protect his or her safety and to avoid adversely affecting the health or safety of others through any act or omission while engaged in these activities. Mandatory Notification information will be provided to all volunteers.

**Safety of Students**

Schools are obliged to take reasonable care to prevent injury to students.

Schools should implement safety procedures by:

- Teaching appropriate safety skills and procedures for the sports played.
- Regulating the duration and intensity of training to suit the needs of the group and prevailing weather conditions.
- Ensuring that adequate protective equipment is available in sufficient quantity and is used both at training and matches.
- Teaching skills appropriate to the age and maturity of students involved.
- Maintaining grounds and facilities in a safe condition.
- Inspecting playing surfaces and equipment, and cancelling matches or training where these are unsuitable or unsafe for play.
- Eliminating specialisation in a position or sports activity where injury may result from overuse of specific body areas.

**Training Procedures**

Recommended procedures for schools:

- Notify parents of the schedule of training, match times and venues.
- Take into account prevailing weather conditions when planning training sessions and matches.

**NB:** Specialist advice is that children should not be involved in strenuous activity of over 30 minutes duration when temperature and humidity are high.

- Never leave a child unsupervised after a game or training – always wait for the supervising adult to collect.
- Notify parents of changes to normal procedures.
- Eliminate activities and exercises which can be harmful.
- Encourage the use of a variety of activities in training sessions.
- Schedule training sessions of an appropriate durations for the age of the students.
- Ensure that first aid, access to a phone and toilet facilities are available to teams using the school grounds after hours.

### **Discipline**

- Schools should advise team officials of the appropriate behaviour management of students.
- Schools are required to detail expectations of children's behaviour and their support for team officials.
- For serious misconduct during a game, officials should be empowered to remove the offending player from the game.
- All breaches of discipline should be reported to the Sport Coordinator, in the first instance, or the Principal if further action is required.

### **First Aid**

Schools should:

- Ensure that coaches have current medical information about all team members and are aware of specific procedures which might be necessary. This information (and medication if appropriate) should be on hand at training and matches.
- Ensure that each team has access to an appropriate first aid kit for both training and matches at all venues.
- Ensure that each team has an adult, responsible for first aid, present at training and matches. All adults involved should be encouraged to undertake an appropriate course of instruction. eg. Basic Casualty Care, ASMF Management of Sports Injuries.
- Ensure that coaches are aware of emergency procedures required, consistent with general school policy including:
  - First Aid
  - Method of informing parents
  - The desirability of having access to a telephone for both training and matches
  - Reporting accidents to the Principal
  - Details of ambulance cover

### **CONDUCT OF SPORTING COMPETITIONS**

The following guidelines are provided for schools which conduct sporting competitions:

#### **Younger students:**

- Can participate in modified local competition provided it is skills/clinic based which emphasises skills building.
- The emphasis is on participation and encouraging a healthy and active pathway for their future development.
- Players in these competitions will be rotated through positions.
- Umpires/referees/coaches/supervisors will normally assume teaching roles during matches.

#### **Middle Primary students:**

- Can participate in local competition provided it is usually skills/clinic based which emphasises skills building.
- Players in these competitions are rotated through positions.
- Umpires/referees/coaches/supervisors may assume teaching roles during matches

**Upper Primary/Secondary students:**

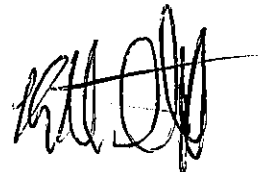
- Students learn appropriate skills in training situations and coaching clinics.
- Umpires/referees/coaches/supervisors assume mentoring roles during matches.

**PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES****Use of Private Vehicles**

- Schools should be informed of all persons (including students) involved in transporting students to sporting events.
- Schools should ensure that parental approval is obtained prior to the involvement of students in training matches and transport to and from venues.

**Medical Condition**

1. Parents should provide details of any medical condition, which might influence a student's participation, prior to involvement. This should be recorded on the coach's medical consent form.
  2. Parents of students with specific, serious medical problems should consult with schools and/or coaches concerning the administration of first aid and medication.
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**APPROVAL OF SPORT POLICY****PRINCIPAL****COLLEGE BOARD CHAIR**

Date: 28 July 2015

Review Date: September 2017

# CODE OF CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

## Players' Code:

- PLAY BY THE RULES - playing outside the rules is called '*cheating*'.
- Never argue with an official (umpire, referee). If you disagree have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper - THIS REQUIRES PERSONAL DISCIPLINE. 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 for your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a 'good sport'. Gain respect from your team mates and opponents because of the fair manner in which you play the game. Applaud all good plays whether they be by 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, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents and coaches.
- The use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender, race or creed is unacceptable and will not be tolerated
- Humble in victory, and gracious in defeat.

## Coaches' Code:

- Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Teach your players that the rules or laws of the sport are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Whenever possible, group players to give a reasonable chance of being successful.
- Avoid overplaying the talented players. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time.
- Remember that children participate for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making what you consider to be a mistake or for losing a game/competition.
- Ensure that the equipment and facilities meet safety and standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the children or teenagers involved.
- Take into consideration the physical, social and emotional development level of the children/teenagers, when scheduling and determining the length of practice time and competition.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition involvement.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of the growth and development of children.
- A The use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender, race or creed is unacceptable and will not be tolerated

## Parents' Code:

- If children are interested, encourage them to participate. However, if a child is unwilling, do not force him or her to be involved.
- Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to his or her ability by reducing the emphasis placed on winning.
- Keep the performance goals simple. Simple and realistic means challenging but attainable. The more performance goals set, the more likely the child will have to be successful.

Some example of simple performance goals:-

contest the ball with a player from the other team

recover quickly from incorrect plays

recover quickly from correct plays

find a team mate with my disposal (kick, throw, handball, pass)

- Goals that are perceived by children to be too high only serve to make them anxious.
- Teach children that an honest effort is an important victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules of the school.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules or the laws of the game.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making what you consider to be a mistake, or for losing a game.
- Remember that children are involved in organised sports for their enjoyment not yours.
- Remember that children learn best from example.
- Quietly and genuinely applaud good plays by all teams.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for the benefit of your child's involvement. It may be wise to approach the Principal within three days after the event.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children and deserve your support.
- The use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender, race or creed is unacceptable and will not be tolerated

#### **Teachers' Code:**

- Encourage children to develop basic skills in a wide variety of sports and discourage over-specialisation in one sport or in one playing position.
- Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour has a high priority over highly structured club versus club or school versus school competitions for young primary school children.
- Prepare children and teenagers for intra and interschool competitions by first providing instruction in the basic sports skills.
- Develop in children and teenagers an awareness of the physical fitness values of sports and their life-long recreational value.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Help children understand the fundamental differences between the junior games competition they play and professional sport.
- Help children understand the responsibilities and implications of their freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.
- The use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender, race or creed is unacceptable and will not be tolerated
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling infractions or non observance of the rules, laws and regulations of the game.

#### **Officials', Umpires' and Referees ' Code:**

- Modify rules, laws and regulations to match the skill level of the children and their needs.
- Compliment all participants on their efforts.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling infractions or non observance of the rules, laws and regulations of the game.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Ensure that the 'spirit of the game' for children is not lost by using common sense and not overemphasising errors.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of the growth and development of the children.
- The use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender, race or creed is unacceptable and will not be tolerated

**Spectators' Code:**

- The level of competition must be appropriate for the children.
- Remember that children play organised sports for fun! They are not playing for the entertainment or the egos of the spectators. Children are not mini professionals.
- Quietly applaud good performances and efforts from each team. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the outcome of the game/competition.
- Control your responses to what you see - this requires personal discipline - verbal abuse of officials (umpires or referees) or players, deliberately distracting or provoking players competing is not acceptable or justified.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making what you consider to be a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivating.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage quietly players to follow the rules and laws of the game and always support the official's decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul or offensive language, harassing players, coaches and officials.
- The use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender, race or creed is unacceptable and will not be tolerated