



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Junior Sport Codes of Behaviour





Players

Code of Behaviour

- ② Play by the rules.
- ② Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- ② Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
- ② Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- ② Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- ② Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- ② Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- ② Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please your parents and coaches.
- ② Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Parents

Code of Behaviour

- ② Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- ② Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- ② Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose.
- ② Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- ② Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- ② Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful plays by all participants.
- ② Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- ② Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- ② Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- ② Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.





Coaches

Code of Behaviour

- ② Remember that young people participate for pleasure, and winning is only part of the fun.
- ② Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or not coming first.
- ② Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- ② Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.
- ② Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- ② Avoid overplaying the talented players; the 'just average' need and deserve equal time.
- ② Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- ② Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
- ② Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- ② Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- ② Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- ② Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Teachers

Code of Behaviour

- ② Encourage young people to develop basic skills in a variety of sports and discourage overspecialisation in one event, sport or playing position.
- ② Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour as well as basic skills.
- ② Give priority to free play activities, skill learning and modified sports over highly structured competition for primary school children.
- ② Prepare young people for intra and inter-school competition by teaching the basic sport skills.
- ② Make young people aware of the positive benefits of participation in sporting activities.
- ② Keep up to date with coaching practices and the principles of physical growth and development. Read and use the latest coaching and teaching resources for junior sport.
- ② Help young people understand the differences between the junior competition they participate in and professional sport.
- ② Help young people understand that playing by the rules is their responsibility.
- ② Give all young people equal opportunities to participate in administration, coaching and refereeing as well as playing.
- ② Support implementation of the National Junior Sport Policy.
- ② Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



Administrators

Code of Behaviour

- ② Involve young people in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision-making related to the activity.
- ② Give all young people equal opportunities to participate.
- ② Create pathways for young people to participate in sport, not just as a player but as a coach, referee, administrator, etc.
- ② Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.
- ② Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players.
- ② Remember that young people participate for their enjoyment and benefit. Do not overemphasise awards.
- ② Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- ② Ensure that everyone involved in junior sport emphasises fair play, rather than winning at all costs.
- ② Give a code of behaviour sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players and the media, and encourage them to follow it.
- ② Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- ② Support implementation of the National Junior Sport Policy.
- ② Make it clear that abusing young people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- ② Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Officials

Code of Behaviour

- ② Modify rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of young people.
- ② Compliment and encourage all participants.
- ② Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- ② Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- ② Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors.
- ② Encourage and promote rule changes that will make participation more enjoyable.
- ② Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
- ② Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- ② Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- ② Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- ② Give all young people a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.





Media

Code of Behaviour

- ② Provide coverage of young people's competitive and non-competitive sport as well as reporting adult sport.
- ② Be aware of the differences among adult sport, professional sport and modified sports programs for young people.
- ② Do not highlight isolated incidents of inappropriate sporting behaviour.
- ② Focus on a young player's fair play and honest effort.
- ② Do not place unfair expectations on young people. They are not miniature professionals.
- ② Describe and report on the problems of young people participating in organised sport.
- ② Focus on the abilities and not the disabilities of young people.
- ② Avoid reinforcing stereotypical views on the involvement of boys and girls in particular sports.
- ② Give equal time and space to reporting boys and girls sports.
- ② Familiarise yourself with the National Junior Sport Policy.
- ② Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Spectators

Code of Behaviour

- ② Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
- ② Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of the game's outcome.
- ② Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
- ② Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- ② Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- ② Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
- ② Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- ② Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
- ② Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.





A 'fair go' for young Australians

Australians are justifiably proud of the place sport has in their daily lives. But what is equally important to us all is the way the game is played and the manner in which our sportsmen and sportswomen conduct themselves.

Unfortunately, some people fail to live up to the traditional values of sport. Worse still, young people can be influenced and the rest of their sporting lives coloured by these experiences.

These Codes of Behaviour identify a series of key principles on which young players, parents, coaches, teachers, administrators, officials, the media and spectators should base their sporting involvement. If adopted, the Codes will ensure that young people develop good sporting behaviours and have an enjoyable experience of sport, which will encourage them to remain involved throughout their lives.

The Codes of Behaviour

Young people involved in sport have a right to participate in a safe and supportive environment. Australians are sport mad. We love our sport, however, this can at times create unpleasant situations. Over-zealous parents, boisterous spectators, opinionated players and quick-tempered coaches may need to be reminded of appropriate behaviour when involved with junior sport.

The Australian Sports Commission has developed the Codes of Behaviour to remind and encourage all Australians involved in junior sport to support and nurture all our young players.

The Codes of Behaviour provide the basis for fair play for young people and encourage fun, friends and safe environments. We hope that they will be endorsed and adopted by all.

For further information on junior sport contact:

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