The following coding standard is derived from Tom Verhoeff's standard used in the course Programming Methods. It contributes to easily readable and modifiable Java source code.

1. Be consistent when using the freedom that this standard leaves.

2. *Always* use curly braces { } after

   - **if** (...)
   - **else**, *unless* immediately followed by **if** for multiway selection
   - **while** (...)
   - **for** (...)
   - **do**
   - **try** and **catch** (...)

3. Indent systematically a multiple of 4 spaces, or, as systematically, 3. *Never* use TAB characters in source code.

4. *Never* make lines longer than will fit in the window on your screen. This is important for the person who helps you in class.

5. *Always* write the following items on separate lines:

   - variable declarations (includes constants via **final**)
   - statements

   That is, do not put two or more declarations or statements on the same line.

6. *Always* explain every variable declaration in a comment, unless its name is completely self-explanatory.

7. Put opening braces at the end of the line that introduces them, instead of putting them on a separate line. This will put more information in the visible window on your screen, which is important for the person who helps you in class.

8. *Never* write a space before the following items and *always* write one space after them (*unless* at line end):

   - , ;

9. *Always* write one space before and after the following items:

   - keywords
   - operators: $= + - * / \% == != < > <= >= ! \&\& ||$

10. *Always* write one empty line before and after the following items:

    - block of constant definitions, instance or local variable declarations
    - each method definition

References

[1] *Java Coding Standards*. ESA, 2005.
    `ftp.estec.esa.nl/pub/wm/wme/bssc/Java-Coding-Standards-20050303-releaseA.pdf`

[2] *Code Conventions for the Java Programming Language*. Sun, 1999.
    `java.sun.com/docs/codeconv`