

NCAS Codes of Conduct

Rationale

Australians are justifiably proud of the place sport has in their daily lives. But what is equally important is the way the game is played and the manner in which sportspeople 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 are coloured by these experiences.

These Codes of Conduct identify a series of key principles on which young players, parents, coaches, administrators, officials, the media and spectators should base their sporting involvement.

These Codes have been adopted from publications produced by Sport Australia with the aim to develop a nation-wide approach to sporting codes which will help ensure that young people develop good sporting behaviour and have an enjoyable experience of sport, in the hope that it will encourage them to remain involved throughout their lives.

Additional to these Codes of Conduct is the NCAS Athlete Agreement which outlines the more specific obligations of athletes within NCAS sport programs.

Player's Code of Conduct

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their ability, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. This includes teammates, opponents, coaches and officials. Never engage in behaviour that abuses, provokes or harasses others.
- Adhere to the principles of fair play and always play by the rules, respecting the traditions of the game and the spirit of competition.
- Respect the decision of coaches and officials and never argue with them. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Always play to the best of your abilities and participate for enjoyment, not results.
- Never engage in inappropriate conduct including the use of offensive language and gestures that are demeaning to others
- Care for the equipment and facilities made available during training and competition
- Always consider the safety and wellbeing of other participants before performance and results
- Adhere to anti-doping policies and never engage in match fixing or betting.
- Never engage in inappropriate conduct including the use of offensive language, drinking or smoking whilst in the presence of junior participants or spectators
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated.
- Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, team mates, opponents and officials. Without them there would be no competition.

Parent's and Spectator's Code of Conduct

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their ability, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. This includes athletes, opponents, coaches and officials. Never engage in behaviour that abuses, provokes or harasses others.

- Understand that sport is designed to be fun and that participating for enjoyment and wellbeing should always come before performance and results.
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn by best example.
- Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players. Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
- Never engage in inappropriate conduct including the use of offensive language, drinking or smoking whilst in the presence of junior participants or spectators.
- Call out and refer to North Coast Academy of Sport authorities all acts of unethical behavior, whether from players, coaches, officials, parents or spectators
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation and respect for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- At all times act as a role model for others, displaying high standards of good sporting behavior
- Participate in positive cheering that reinforces and encourages participant efforts

Coach's Code of Conduct

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their ability, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. This includes athletes, opponents, coaches and officials. Never engage in behaviour that abuses, provokes or harasses others.
- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience.
- All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Avoid overplaying the talented players. The 'just average' players needs and deserves equal time.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all participants.
- 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.
- Call out and refer to North Coast Academy of Sport authorities all acts of unethical behavior, whether from players, officials, parents or spectators
- At all times act as a role model for others, displaying high standards of good sporting behavior
- Always consider the safety and wellbeing of participants before performance and results and follow the advice of a physician/medical officer in determining when an injured or sick participant may return to training and competition.
- Obtain qualifications accredited by the appropriate sporting body and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Promote a safe and inclusive environment, in which every person regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation is protected and free from discrimination, harassment and abuse

- Maintain respectful and appropriate relationships with every person, especially to participants to which you owe a duty of care
- Never engage in inappropriate conduct including the use of offensive language, drinking or smoking, whilst in an official capacity
- Follow the guidelines and rules set down by the North Coast Academy of Sport and governing body.

Official's Codes of Conduct

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their ability, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. This includes athletes, opponents, coaches and officials. Never engage in behaviour that abuses, provokes or harasses others.
- Promote a safe and inclusive environment
- Always ensure the safety and wellbeing of players above all else
- Maintain respectful and appropriate relationships with every person, especially to the players
- Be impartial, consistent and transparent in your conduct and decision-making. Accept responsibility for your actions
- Avoid situations that may lead to or call into question conflict of interest
- Avoid engaging in verbal communication with coaches, officials, parents and spectators during play except in instances of medical emergencies or to call out acts of unethical behaviour
- At all times act as a role model for others, displaying high standards of good sporting behavior
- Never engage in inappropriate conduct including the use of offensive language whilst in an official capacity
- Adhere to the laws of the game and the principles of fair play, ensuring that the spirit of competition is respected by all players, coaches and officials

Administrator's Code of Conduct

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their ability, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. This includes teammates, opponents, coaches and officials. Never engage in behaviour that abuses, provokes or harasses others.
- Involve young people in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activity.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.
- Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players.
- Remember that young people participate for their enjoyment and benefit.
- Do not over emphasise awards.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure that everyone involved in junior sport emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Give a code of conduct behaviour sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players and the media, and encourage them to follow it.
- Remember, you set an example.
- Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Make it clear that abusing others in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Ensure that the North Coast Academy of Sport promotes a safe and inclusive environment
- Promote a safe and inclusive environment, in which every person feels welcomed and is protected and free from discrimination, harassment and abuse
- Ensure that all players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators place wellbeing and enjoyment ahead of performance and outcomes
- Protect the integrity of sport at all times by ensuring that the behaviour and conduct of every person is consistent with the laws of the game, the principles of fair play and the standards of safe and inclusive sport

- Protect the safety and wellbeing of members at all times by ensuring that appropriate safeguarding measures and policies are in place, easily accessible and understood by every person, and reviewed regularly
- Be impartial, consistent and transparent in your conduct and decision-making. Accept responsibility for your actions
- Make decisions in the best interests of your members and the sport
- Create pathways that support players, coaches and officials to improve their skill development
- Provide equal opportunities for all players, coaches and officials to participate, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background
- At all times act as a role model for others, displaying high standards of good sporting behavior
- Never engage in inappropriate conduct including the use of offensive language, drinking or smoking, whilst in an official capacity
- Ensure that all members are made aware of their rights and responsibilities under the appropriate legislation including: Member Protection Policy, Code of Conduct, Child Safe Policy and Anti-discrimination Policy, and know the process by which to refer a complaint or breach

Board Member's Code of Conduct

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their ability, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. This includes athletes, opponents, coaches and officials. Never engage in behaviour that abuses, provokes or harasses others.
- Act with honesty and integrity; be open and transparent in your dealings; use power responsibly; ensure that any possible conflict of interest is disclosed or avoided; strive to earn and sustain public trust and the trust of the Academy's membership at a high level.
- Exercise due care, diligence and skill: ascertain all relevant information; make reasonable enquiries; understand the financial, strategic and other implications of decisions.
- Act in good faith in the best interests of the Academy: demonstrate accountability for your actions; accept responsibility for your decisions; avoid activities that may bring you or the Academy into disrepute.
- Act fairly and impartially: avoid bias, discrimination, caprice or self-interest; demonstrate respect for others by acting in a professional and courteous manner.
- Use information appropriately: ensure information gained as a Director is only applied to proper purposes and is kept confidential; ensure that any personal information coming to your attention as a Director is handled in compliance with the Academy's privacy obligations.
- Use your position appropriately: avoid the use of your position as a Director to seek an undue advantage for yourself, family members or associates; avoid the use of your position as a Director to cause detriment to the Academy; ensure that you decline gifts or favours that may cast doubt on your ability to apply independent judgement as a Board member of the Academy.
- Act in a financially responsible manner: understand financial reports, audit reports and other financial material that comes before the Board; actively inquire into this material.
- Comply with the Academy's governance rules: have a good working knowledge of the Academy's governing documents pertaining to your role as a Director; act within the powers and for the functions set out in the Academy's governing documents.
- Demonstrate leadership and stewardship: promote and support the application of the Academy's values; acknowledge and act in accordance with the responsibility you as a Director have in regard to the rights of members of the Academy and other stakeholders of the Academy; act in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

Media's Code of Conduct

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their ability, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. This includes athletes, coaches and officials. Never engage in behaviour that abuses, provokes or harasses others.
- Provide coverage of young people's competitive and non-competitive sport as well as reporting adult sport.
- Be aware of the differences between adult sport, professional sport and modified sports programs for young people.

- Don't highlight isolated incidents of inappropriate sporting behaviour.
- Focus upon a young player's fair play and honest effort.
- Do not place unfair expectations on young people. They are not miniature professionals.
- Describe and report on the problems of young people participating in organised sport.
- Focus on the abilities and the disabilities of young people.
- Avoid reinforcing stereotypical views on the involvement of boys/girls in particular sports.
- Give equal time and space to reporting boys and girls sports.

Breach

Breaches shall be referred to the NCAS Executive Director.

Relevant References

Reference to each of the Codes can be found within the Sport Australia website www.sportaus.gov.au.

Due to the lack of a specific Board Member's Codes of Conduct from Sport Australia, relevant codes have been referenced from the Australian Psychological Society website <https://www.psychology.org.au/>.

Policy Review & History

These codes of conduct are adopted from the Sport Australia in their current forms and any revision that may, from time to time be adopted.

Adopted by the NCAS Board on 12/6/2008.

Updated and adopted by the NCAS Board on 30/03/2021