



SPORT IN GSA SCHOOLS

Code of conduct for coaches, match officials, pupils, parents and spectators

Sport plays a very important role in a pupil's education. All adults involved in sport for young people should respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in sport at their own appropriate level. This code aims to ensure that participation and enjoyment remain at the heart of sport in GSA schools.

Guidance has been taken from a range of sources including the National Coaching Foundation Code of Ethics, Council of Europe's Code of Sports Ethics, Code of Ethics and Conduct for Sports Coaches (Mackenzie, 2001), various sport governing bodies and other school literature. It is intended that this paper be used in collaboration with associated school policies, for example: safeguarding, child protection, health and safety, risk assessments. It is intended for use by schools who may choose to adapt it to their individual circumstances before publishing to their chosen audience.

**Play to win – but not at all cost.
Win with dignity, lose with grace.
Observe the Laws and regulations of the game.
Respect opponents, referees and all participants.
Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs.
Enjoy the game.**

(RFU, 2010)

Guidance for Coaches / Teachers:

- Work to create a productive, supportive, enjoyable environment based on mutual respect and trust; an environment in which every individual has the opportunity to participate in a sport or activity of their choice, free from harassment or fear.
- Recognise that young people play for fun and enjoyment; winning is important but should not be an end in itself.
- Never reprimand or ridicule mistakes.
- Honour commitments to tournaments and other major events to minimise disruption for all involved.
- Ensure groupings are appropriate to the activity.

- Attain a high level of competence and show commitment to ongoing training that ensures safe practice.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the participants.
- Teach participants that the rules are for their own safety and should be respected at all times.
- Abide by school safeguarding procedures and ensure adherence to CRB check requirements.
- Be reasonable in demands on pupil's time, energy and enthusiasm, recognising and allowing opportunity for other interests.
- Foster independence in every participant, encouraging pupils to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance in training, competition and other aspects of life.
- Communicate with and provide feedback to performers in a manner that reflects respect and care.
- Ensure that participants respect the ability of their opponents and the judgement of match officials.
- Demonstrate appropriate professional behaviour, appropriate language and conduct at all times.
- Never discriminate on any grounds
- Be discrete in any conversations about performers, coaches or other individuals.
- Schools have a responsibility to ensure that hired professional coaches, gap students and any other adult helpers use appropriate language and behaviour when working with young people and commit fully to the spirit of this code of practice.

Guidance for pupils:

- Play and participate for fun and enjoyment, not just to please others.
- Win with modesty and lose with grace. Turn losses into victory by prioritising skill improvement.
- Remember that the aim is to have fun, improve your skills and feel good! Enjoy!
- Learn the rules of the activity and abide by to them.
- Accept decisions; let the captain/coach ask any necessary questions. Never contest a decision.
- Treat all players as you would wish to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage in any way.
- Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents – without them there would be no game!
- Communicate with your coach and parents; tell them if you have a problem, worry or concern.
- Play in a positive and sportsman-like manner and extend every courtesy to the opposing team.
- Control your temper and play in a sporting way.
- Respect your opponents and the officials.
- Check fixture lists, team sheets and notices regularly.
- Be punctual, well prepared with all correct equipment and kit and well presented.
- Play hard and with passion, and never with deliberate violence.

- Never use bad language.
- Work equally hard for the team as for yourself.

Guidance for match officials:

- Set the tone of the game – not too chummy nor too austere.
- Do your utmost to ensure that the players / performers enjoy the experience of representing their school.
- Do not tolerate or condone foul play of any kind.
- Emphasise the spirit and ethos of the game.
- Recognise that the safety of players is paramount and take action to ensure their safety when necessary.
- Be a positive role model and lead by example.
- Keep up to date with refereeing / umpiring qualifications and be aware of any changes in playing regulations.
- Explain decisions clearly and concisely remembering at all times to be fair and unbiased.
- Take time to speak to players and coaches after the game.

Guidance for Parents / spectators

- Encourage young people to play by the rules and within the spirit of the game / competition.
- Remember that each young person is an individual with their own aspirations. Allow them participate because **they** want to participate and because **they** enjoy the activity.
- Emphasise enjoyment and fun.
- Support effort and teamwork as being as important as victory so that the result of each game / competition is kept in proportion.
- Turn defeat into victory by helping young people work towards skill development and a positive sporting attitude.
- Respect the officials' decisions, judgements and honesty.
- Recognise the authority and professionalism of coaches. Allow them to decide what is best for individuals and the team.
- Do not seek, during or after a match, to give advice to coaches, umpires/referees or to players.
- Make support as positive as possible. Applaud good play by all participants and demonstrate respect and friendliness for opponents.
- Celebrate success with gracious conduct and good sportsmanship.
- Do not berate a child or the team.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from young people's sport.
- Be aware of the physical demands that sport places on young people and help them to manage their commitments.
- Parents who become aware of a conflict between their child's obligations to school and another

commitment should communicate with the school and work with them to achieve best result for pupil.

- Enjoy the game!

GSA Sports Committee

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