

CONDUCT OF TONBRIDGE SPORT

Sport is an integral part of the educational experience at Tonbridge. The breadth, depth and quality of our provision are essential ingredients in providing an environment in which boys can both improve and enjoy their sport, whilst also building an understanding of the link between constructive exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Boys of all ability are encouraged to play meaningful and competitive sport here at Tonbridge. We identify four key benefits of sport in education which also support some of the key aims of a Tonbridge education:

- Working with others in a team toward an external, collective objective;
- The challenge of competition, of mastering physical skills and of enjoyment and achievement;
- The self-evident benefits of physical exercise and a healthy lifestyle;
- The concept of fair play, and the ability to cope with both success and failure.

It is important that all those who are involved in the playing, coaching and supporting of Tonbridge sport are aware of the need for the highest standards of sportsmanship at all levels, and adhere to the following points:

- Respect and courtesy should be paid to the opposition at all times;
- Open criticism of or dissent from umpiring or refereeing decisions are unacceptable;
- There must be no foul or abusive language on the field;
- Physical or verbal intimidation of opponents is unacceptable. No opponent should be verbally abused or deliberately distracted by any actions or words;
- All sports are played to win. However, losing a match is not the end of the world and all boys should know how to lose graciously;
- Behaviour when visiting other schools should be exemplary. Taking any property belonging to another school or its pupils will be regarded as theft and will be dealt with by the Second Master;
- Any boy who transgresses this code should be formally warned by the master-in-charge of his sport. The Director of Sport and the boy's Housemaster should be informed of any such action. More serious or repeated breaches of this code should lead to a boy being suspended from future matches and might lead to formal School sanctions.
- This code applies at all age levels and in House as well as School matches.

It is important that staff and parents transmit the right message about good sportsmanship. All should set the right example: sport is played to win, but not at all costs and boys must realise that success can be tarnished by allegations of poor sportsmanship.