

# **St Michael's Lane Cove Association**

## **Code of Conduct**

September, 2005

## **CODE OF CONDUCT - PLAYERS**

- Play by the rules.
- Respect the expertise and discretion of your coach at all times during match play.
- Accept decisions of all match officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, approach the official, accompanied by your coach, during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper.
- Verbal abuse of officials, bad language and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all 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 and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment, benefit and for the "fun of it", not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Do not interfere with the progress and/or conduct of the game
- Be prepared to lose sometimes. Everyone wins and loses at some time. Be a fair winner and a good loser.
- Congratulate all players before you leave the court at the conclusion of each match, regardless of the result.
- Be active in support, praise and congratulations to any injured players.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT - PARENTS**

- Parents will abide by the policy and guidelines of the statutory requirements of the NSW legislation in relation to child protection and sports rage.
- Parents must abide by, respect and accept the discretion of the Club and Association grading process and encourage your child to do the same.
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on playing the game and the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Teach your children that an honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Do not criticize any children in front of others, but reserve constructive criticism for more private moments.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate and applaud good performances and skilful plays by all participants.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Accept decisions of all match officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability. Do not raise issues of disagreement publicly.
- Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour and appearance.
- Do not criticize opposing team members or supporters by word or gesture.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Do not interfere with the progress and/or conduct of a game.
- As a parent or spectator, you are representing your child's team and club. Beware of the cause and effect of your behaviour and actions.
- Be prepared to assist in the conduct of the game (e.g. carry the drinks, assist the coach, assist the manager, write match reports, etc).

## CODE OF CONDUCT - COACHES

- Coaches will abide by the policy and guidelines of the statutory requirements of the NSW legislation in relation to child protection and sports rage.
- Whilst ever grading remains a part of Club philosophy, coaches must endeavour to give a fair and unbiased assessment of each player with respect to the grading of teams.
- As a coach, ensure you are matched with a level of coaching appropriate to your level of competence.
- Seek to keep abreast o changes in the sport and ensure that the information you use is up to date and is appropriate to the needs of players in your charge.
- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Always be mindful of a player's age, height, skills and physical maturity.
- Scheduling and length of practice, training and competition should take into consideration the maturity of players.
- Avoid over-playing the most talented players. All players need and deserve equal time.
- Teach your players the rules of the game.
- Ensure your players understand that the rules of the game are mutual agreements which no one should ever break.
- Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or losing a game.
- 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.
- Endeavour to give all players equal time on the court/pitch/field during the season.
- Use your own discretion to make appropriate and necessary changes during play as determined during each particular match.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Be aware of the role of a coach as an educator. As well as imparting knowledge and skills, promote desirable and social behaviours.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, umpires, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.

- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Seek and obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Profanity is unacceptable.
- Direct, hostile or negative comments directed towards opposition coaches or players are unacceptable.
- Dress standards should be appropriate and project a positive image.
- Prior to the commencement of the game, ensure you approach the opposition coach introduce yourself and your team.
- Encourage your players to shake hands with and congratulate the opposition at the completion of the game, regardless of the result.
- Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Encourage acceptable behaviour by all support personnel on the team.
- Any complaint that is not dealt with satisfactorily at court-side should be immediately referred to the relevant sporting body officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Treat each player as an individual. Respect the talent, development stage and goals of each player, and help each player reach their full potential.
- Do not interfere with the progress and/or conduct of a game unless called to do so by another official.
- Abide by the Officials' decisions.
- Establish and maintain appropriate levels of communication with the parents of players in your charge.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT - MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS**

- All managers and administrators will abide by the policy and guidelines of the statutory requirements of the NSW legislation in relation to child protection and sports rage.
- Be aware of your role. Refer to an official of your Club or the Association if unsure.
- Involve young people in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activity.
- Give all young people equal opportunities to participate.
- Create pathways for young people to participate in sport not just as a player but as a coach, umpire, administrator etc.
- 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 overemphasize 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 emphasizes fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Give a Code of Conduct 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.
- Support implementation of the National Junior Sport Policy.
- Make it clear that abusing young people 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.
- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasize the spirit of the game rather than errors.
- Be a good sport, actions speak louder than words.
- Do not interfere with the progress and/or conduct of a game, unless called to do so by another official.
- Abide by Official's decisions.

## CODE OF CONDUCT – UMPIRES/REFEREES

- Coaches should teach sound sportsmanship along with game skills.
- Ensure that you meet the requirements of the relevant sporting body or association and abide by their rule at all times.
- Maintain and seek to obtain appropriate qualifications.
- Keep up to date with the latest officiating principles and practices and any changes in the sport or rules of the game.
- Be knowledgeable about the principles of growth and development of children.
- Should adhere to any current uniform requirements in accordance with the regulations of your relevant sporting body or association.
- Remain impartial and fair at all times.
- Interpret rules and regulations to match the skill level and need of participants.
- Maintain your position as a referee/umpire at all times.
- Have confidence and stand by your own decisions.
- Do not be intimidated by players, coaches, parents and/or spectators.
- If you are unable to deal appropriately with any court-side issue, refer the issue to officials from the relevant sporting body or association.
- Ensure you are aware of and adhere to correct referee/umpire practices as directed by your sporting club, including:
  - Arrival time prior to commencement of play
  - Any sign on requirements
  - Checking of playing surface and ground/court particulars and safety issues (goals, markings, nets, padding, etc)
  - Identifying team captains and introductions, including to other umpires/referees, coaches, officials.
  - Any checking of players, player equipment, etc as may be required (including nails, jewellery, boots, shoes, etc)
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in call all infractions.
- Do not condone deliberate fouling and promote fair play and appropriate sporting behaviour.
- Use common sense to ensure the “spirit of the game” for children is not lost.
- Help the education process of the game. You can help players learn to play the game well by ensuring rule infractions are understood, and by encouraging fair play.
- Ensure that your behaviour both on and off field/court is consistent with the principals of good sportsmanship.
- Compliment both teams on their effort.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT - SPECTATORS**

- Abide by the policy and guidelines of the statutory requirements of the NSW legislation in relation to child protection and sports rage.
- Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to query the decision.
- Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Be positive.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using bad language, sledging or harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Avoid the use of derogatory language and respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person, young or old, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Do not interfere with the progress and/or conduct of a game.