



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL
BLOEMFONTEIN

SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

The aim of this code of conduct is to create and maintain an element of positive communication between all role players and to protect the different stakeholders involved with St Andrew's sport, and is applicable to both match and practice situations.

This Code of Conduct is designed to:

- 1.1 maintain the element of enjoyment in sport;
- 1.2 encourage all learners to participate in sport in order to promote healthy living;
- 1.3 make parents aware that children play sport for the enjoyment of the child concerned;
- 1.4 improve the confidence, psychological well-being and physical fitness of our boys by make sport attractive, safe and enjoyable for everyone;
- 1.5 remind administrators, coaches, referees, umpires and parents that sport must be administered, taught and provided for the good of the boys who wish to participate in the different sporting codes offered at St Andrew's School;
- 1.6 keep in perspective that the abovementioned goals, as well as learners' personal development and growth in understanding teamwork, are more important than winning any one match/game;

- 1.7 protect players, coaches, teachers and parents from any form of abuse.
2. **THE COACH Educators and Coaches are expected to:**
 - 2.1 Set a good example to their players by being correctly dressed, professional, punctual and prepared at all times (i.e. planning each practice and drawing up weekly match schedules for distribution to each player);
 - 2.2 Take responsibility for the behaviour of his/her team and its supporters;
 - 2.3 Teach the players the laws or rules of their sport;
 - 2.4 Teach and encourage the players to develop and improve the skills required to play and enjoy their chosen sport;
 - 2.5 Ensure that wherever reasonably possible all players will get a fair opportunity to participate in a team;
 - 2.6 Ensure that team selections are transparent and fair to all players;
 - 2.7 Ensure that all players are well prepared for matches (i.e. know their positions, the rules, wear the correct uniform);
 - 2.8 Assess players and their ability levels on a regular and on-going basis;
 - 2.9 Keep a record of their team's members, results and progress;
 - 2.10 Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship and ensure that the principle of good sportsmanship is instilled in our boys;
 - 2.11 Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a game;
 - 2.12 Refrain from using inappropriate language;
 - 2.13 Develop the players' respect for their own team members, for opponents, as well as for the referees, umpires and opposition coaches;
 - 2.14 Be generous with praise and provide constructive and positive criticism;

- 2.15 Insist on fair play, and never tolerate gloating, foul play, fighting, or foul language;
- 2.16 Insist on a disciplined approach by all players;
- 2.17 Be reasonable in demands on the young players' time, energy and enthusiasm;
- 2.18 Act with sensitivity when relegating any player to a lower team and to provide the player with a reason for his or her decision;
- 2.19 Make a personal commitment to keep updated on the latest coaching principles.

3. THE PLAYERS

- 3.1 At all times demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect for the opposition;
- 3.2 Attend all practices and matches – players may only be excused by means of a letter from parents;
- 3.3 Be punctual and show commitment to his fellow team members – this would include completing the season (unless there is good reason for not doing so);
- 3.4 Wear the correct uniform to practices and matches and be neatly attired at all times;
- 3.5 Take care of all school sporting equipment and assist coaches in putting equipment away after a practice/match;
- 3.6 Never leave litter lying around after any sports match or practice;
- 3.7 Learn the rules and laws of his sport;
- 3.8 Accept the decision of the match official without question;
- 3.9 Respect opponents, fellow team mates and match officials, regardless of results or negative decisions;
- 3.10 Respect and co-operate with his coach as well as opposition coaches;

- 3.11 Be a team player – showing loyalty and support by remaining at the fixture until the end of the event;
- 3.12 Maintain the school's reputation for fair play. Foul play or un-gentlemanly conduct will be regarded in a very serious light and referred to the Head of Sport who shall determine whether the matter shall be referred (if necessary) to the Head of Discipline and/or the Headmaster;
- 3.13 Control his behaviour on and off the field, court, pitch etc;
- 3.14 Refrain from using any foul or offensive language and refrain from sledging;
- 3.15 Refrain from boastful or arrogant behaviour and applaud good play;
- 3.16 Any player who it is established has transgressed any material principle of this Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Head of Sport who shall determine whether the matter shall be referred (if necessary) to the Head of Discipline and/or the Headmaster.
- 3.17 Do his school proud – Go Saints!!

4. THE MATCH OFFICIAL

The Referee/Umpire is expected to:

- 4.1 Ensure that "over-refereeing" the match/game does not detract from the spirit of the game;
- 4.2 Be intolerant of foul/dangerous play, bad sportsmanship or unacceptable language;
- 4.3 Ensure and encourage fair play at all times;
- 4.4 Set an example by ensuring that both on and off the field his/her behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship;
- 4.5 Compliment both teams on their good play whenever such praise is deserved;
- 4.6 Make a personal commitment to keep themselves informed on sound refereeing/umpiring laws or rules and principles;

- 4.7 Encourage the growth and development of our boys as exemplary sportsmen;
- 4.8 Be willing to accept positive criticism;
- 4.9 Arrive at official School sports events in the formal kit that has been issued by the School and referee/umpire matches in the official kit;
- 4.10 Supervise the “toss” at the commencement of a game or match;
- 4.11 Not unnecessarily engage with spectators during a match or game.

5. THE PARENTS / SPECTATORS

Parents and spectators at sporting events are expected to:

- 5.1 Understand that school sport is not about “winning at all costs”, and recognise the values instilled by their sons participation and the opportunities it provides for social interaction, fun and competition;
- 5.2 Remember that your son is involved in the sport of his choice for HIS enjoyment;
- 5.3 Encourage your son to learn the rules/laws of his sport;
- 5.4 Ensure that your son owns and wears the correct sporting uniform to practices and matches;
- 5.5 Teach your son the value of sportsmanship and fair play;
- 5.6 Never ridicule or berate your son or someone in his team for making a mistake or losing a game;
- 5.7 Remember that young people learn by example. Applaud good play and reserve your judgement on poor play;
- 5.8 Never publicly question a coach’s, referee’s or umpire’s judgement or honesty.
- 5.9 Never use offensive language, or threaten players, coaches, referees, umpires or other spectators;

- 5.10 Respect the role of the coach or match official and recognise their authority on his field;
- 5.11 Respect the coach's decision in making team selection decisions and understand that it is the coach's right to select whom he/she believes to be the most appropriate team in the circumstances;
- 5.12 Respect the opposition players and coaches;
- 5.13 Recognise the value of our coaches, be they teachers or university students. They give of their time and resources to facilitate a superior extra-curricular sports program;
- 5.14 Play an active role in encouraging and supporting your son in his sporting choices;
- 5.15 Ensure that players are collected timeously after each practice and match. A failure to do so can inconvenience educators and coaches;
- 5.16 Be realistic in your expectations of your son's ability and skills level, which will develop with encouragement and positive reinforcement;
- 5.17 Communicate any concerns or issues through the correct channels, in the first instance to the coach/sports administrator charged with the oversight of the team in question (with a request, if applicable, that the matter be brought to the attention of the Head of Sport) or where the matter is sufficiently serious in nature, the matter may be referred by a parent directly to the Head of Sport who shall determine whether the matter shall be referred (if necessary) to the Head of Discipline and/or the Headmaster.
- 5.18 Any parent or other person responsible for the welfare of any player who wishes to communicate any concern to a coach/sport administrator as contemplated in clause 5.17 above, shall ensure that such approach is made (i) in accordance with the standard of conduct expected of parents or guardians contained in any St Andrew's policy regulating the conduct of parents in relation to their interaction with educators/coaches/ sports administrators which shall include making the approach in a civil manner and tone; (ii) by making a prior appointment with the relevant coach/sports administrator to discuss the matter arising during a mutually convenient time and place to all concerned; (iii) in such a manner so as not to be overheard by

others; and (iv) with a positive objective in mind(e.g. to prevent injury or correcting unacceptable behaviour) and not solely for the purpose of venting anger.

6. PROHIBITED ACTS AND SCHOOL SANCTION

In the event that any parent, spectator, coach or match official;

- 6.1 Initiates a fight or any type of other physical or verbal abuse or intimidation;
- 6.2 Threatens any form of physical abuse toward any player, coach, spectator or match official;
- 6.3 Enters the field of play for the purpose of physically or verbally abusing or confronting any player, coach or match official;
- 6.4 Conducts himself in such a manner that materially brings the good name of St Andrew's into disrepute then such conduct which falls foul of the principles set out in section 6.1 to 6.4 above should in the first instance be brought to the attention of both the Deputy Principal responsible for discipline and the Head of Sport, who shall be entitled to make such further investigations into the alleged incident and to receive such written or oral representations regarding the alleged incident as may be deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

Any person who is alleged to have contravened the principles set out in sections 6.1 to 6.4 above will be given the opportunity to present his or her position in relation to the alleged incident to the Deputy Principal responsible for discipline and the Head of Sports within a period of 7 days after being requested or invited to do so. If, after such representations (if any) have been made, the Deputy Principal responsible for discipline and the Head of Sport are in the opinion that further sanction is required or warranted, they shall be entitled to refer the matter to a committee of the school governing body (which committee shall include the Headmaster and may be constituted specifically for considering such matter), which committee shall be entitled to make such recommendations or take such action as the committee may deem appropriate in the circumstances, which may, in appropriate circumstances, include banning of offending parent, spectator, coach or match official from attendance or participation at all SAS Sports events for a period not exceeding one school term.

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. van der...' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chairman – SAS Governing Body

Date: 15 February 2016

With acknowledgement to Rondebosch Boys' Preparatory School