



# Sports Code of Conduct

**This policy applies to:**

Coaches, players, officials, parents and spectators

**Person responsible for this policy:**

Director of Sport

**Review Dates:**

Last review      September 2024

Next review      September 2025

## 1. The Aim of the Code of Conduct

The aim of this Code of Conduct is to provide a set of guiding principles for all people involved in sport at Ardingly College. This Code of Conduct is applicable to all sporting situations including training and matches.

## 2. This Code of Conduct is designed to:

- i. Maintain the element of enjoyment in sport;
- ii. Encourage all students to participate in sport in order to promote a healthy lifestyle;
- iii. Improve the confidence, psychological well-being and physical fitness of our students by making sport appealing, safe and enjoyable;
- iv. Keep in perspective that the above mentioned benefits of participating in sport outweigh winning any match;
- v. Protect players, coaches, teachers, referees, umpires and parents from any form of abuse;
- vi. To promote the good reputation of Ardingly College in the wider community.

## Our players should:

- i. Play the game for the purpose of their enjoyment whilst competing to the best of their ability;
- ii. Demonstrate respect for the rules of the game and play in a manner that suggests pride in their own actions;
- iii. Maintain the College's reputation for fair play. Foul play or poor conduct (including swearing and arguing with the referee/umpire) is unacceptable and will be taken seriously;
- iv. Refrain from using any foul or offensive language and refrain from sledging;
- v. Refrain from boastful or arrogant behaviour and recognise good play from both their own team and opposition;
- vi. Treat all match officials and coaches with respect;
- vii. Have respect for and accept the coach's decision with regard to team selection;
- viii. Be positive, supportive and encouraging of their team mates;
- ix. Wear the correct kit and bring the appropriate equipment for all training sessions and matches;
- x. Not wear any jewellery (earrings, necklaces, watches, bracelets, rings) to training or matches. Hair should be tied back appropriately;
- xi. Attend all training sessions and matches unless they have an acceptable excuse. Permission needs to be obtained from the Senior Deputy Head at least a week in advance for any proposed absences from matches. Coaches should also be informed at least a week in advance.
- xii. Arrive punctually for all training sessions and matches;
- xiii. Be prepared to take responsibility for helping with all kit and treat all equipment and playing kit that is issued to them with respect;
- xiv. Show respect for the College's and opposition's pitches and facilities.

## Our Coaches should:

- i. Be generous with praise and provide constructive criticism;
- ii. Be honest and fair in their assessment of players and in their team selection;
- iii. Give players plenty of opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem;
- iv. Promote the values of team spirit and fair play, recognising that winning is only one part of sporting competition and that fun and enjoyment are more important;
- v. Instil the correct attitude towards training and representing the school and team;
- vi. Be positive in their comments and conduct throughout any match and training session;
- vii. Inform players of weaknesses in their game in a professional manner, whilst offering ideas for improvement;
- viii. Ensure sessions start on time and with the correct equipment;
- ix. Develop the players' respect for their own team members, for opponents, as well as for the referees, umpires and opposition coaches;
- x. Insist on fair play, and never tolerate gloating, foul play, fighting, or foul language.
- xi. Arrive to training and matches in the correct Ardingly attire.

## Our Spectators and Parents should:

- i. Understand and appreciate that school sport is not about “winning at all costs”;
- ii. Support the players’ involvement and help them to enjoy the game;
- iii. Encourage players to learn the rules and play within them;
- iv. Ensure that players wear the correct sporting kit to training sessions and matches;
- v. Teach the students the value of sportsmanship and fair play;
- vi. Never ridicule or berate students in the team (and opposition teams) for making a mistake or losing a game;
- vii. Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performance by all players;
- viii. Maintain communication with the coaches about schedules and fixtures;
- ix. Never publicly question a coach’s, referee’s or umpire’s judgment or honesty;
- x. Never use offensive language, or threaten players, coaches, referees, umpires or other spectators;
- xi. Respect the role of the coach or match official and recognise their authority on the field;
- xii. Respect the coach’s decision on selection;
- xiii. Respect the opposition players and coaches;
- xiv. Communicate any concerns or issues through the correct channels;
- xv. Refrain from coaching from the side lines as this can send mixed messages.

Any parent or other person responsible for the welfare of any player who wishes to communicate a concern must approach the matter in a civil way and by making a prior appointment with the relevant coach/sports administrator. This approach should be made in such a manner that is not overheard by others and with a positive objective in mind (e.g. to prevent injury or correct unacceptable behaviour) and not solely for the purposes of venting anger.

**3. In the instance of the following prohibited acts, the College will act on and apply appropriate sanctions.**

No parent, spectator, coach or match official should ever:

- i. Initiate a fight or any type of physical or verbal abuse or intimidation including the use of unacceptable language directed towards any player, coach, official or other spectator;
- ii. Threaten any form of physical abuse toward any player, coach, spectator or match official;
- iii. Enter the field of play for the purpose of physically or verbally abusing or confronting any player, coach or match official;
- iv. Conduct himself or herself in such a manner that brings the good name of Ardingly College into disrepute.

Such conduct which falls foul of the principles set out above should be brought to the attention of the Senior Deputy Head and the Director of Sport. Further investigations into the alleged incident will occur and appropriate action will be taken.

Any person who is alleged to have contravened the principles set out in this Code of Conduct will be given the opportunity to present his or her position in relation to the alleged incident to the Senior Deputy Head who will deal with the issue as they see fit.