



Players' Code of Conduct

Basketball is intended to be a recreation activity for enjoyment and health. This code of conduct have been developed by Basketball Victoria to give participants some guide to the expectations it has o those participants. It is intended to assist everyone to obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their involvement in basketball. As a result, the quality of participation will be improved so people are more likely to start and continue their involvement in basketball. Enjoy!

1. **Understand and play by the rules**

Understanding and playing by the rules is your responsibility. The rules exist for the safety, proper order and enjoyment of all people involved in basketball. The lessons to be learned in this respect, in basketball, are lessons that can and should be carried over into all aspects of your lives. Do not ignore or deliberately break any rules. Even if you think that a deliberate foul may give your team an advantage, you should not commit the deliberate foul in the interests of fair play. If you do consistently commit deliberate fouls or break the rules, you must accept that there will be consequences for you and your team. Do not let yourself or your team down.

2. **Respect referees and other officials.**

Referees, coaches, scores and all acting officials have a difficult task to perform and you could not play the game without them. Referees are there to enforce the rules of play, but cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees, coaches, scorers or any person acting an official capacity is unacceptable behaviour. Players who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, have your coach, captain or manager approach the referee during a break or after the game in an appropriate manner.

3. **Control your temper.**

Verbal abuse of officials is a serious offence against the rules of basketball. Verbally abusing other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are also not acceptable or permitted in basketball. Loss of temper is not only unpleasant for other participants in the game, it can also distract you and have an adverse effect on your concentration on the court.

4. **Work equally hard for yourself and for your team.**

You owe it to yourself and others involved in your team to train and play to the best of your abilities. Your team's performance will benefit – so will you. If you are half-hearted about your

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involvement in the sport you will become dissatisfied and lose out on much of the enjoyment and satisfaction you derive from giving it your best.

5. Be a good sport.

Acknowledge all good players whether they be in your team or the other team. Good manners and respect can be infectious. Everyone likes to be praised when they do something well. If you acknowledge the achievements of your opponents, it is likely they will follow suit. Part of participation in sport is respect for all participants in the game. Your opponents are entitled to proper courtesy. Always introduce yourself to your opponents on court, congratulate them whether you win or lose and accept a loss gracefully. Remember that the opposition coach is there trying to the best for their team and is also entitled to respect.

6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated.

Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Just because one of your team cannot perform as well as you do does not mean that they are not trying. Everyone makes mistakes. Do not abuse or ridicule another player when a mistake is made. Constructive guidance and encouragement when a player does well will assist a player to improve their game.

7. Play for the “enjoyment of it” and not just to please parents and coaches.

Playing sport, including basketball, should be fun. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't take it seriously, just that at the same time, you should enjoy it. If you enjoy an activity you will perform much better and derive far more benefit from it than if it is an unpleasant experience. You may experience pressure from your coach and parents and others to perform outside of your capability or desires. Whilst this can be a positive and their way of showing you support in your activities, you should resist it where it is no longer enjoyable.

8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.

Regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion or other factor irrelevant to the game, all persons connected with basketball are entitled to equal treatment and respect. Avoid any remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory. Sometimes even a joke may give offence. Even if a person refers to themselves with a particular label, it should be taken as an

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invitation for you to do so. Using discretion is imperative and it is better to err on the side of caution.

9. **Be prepared to lose sometimes.**

Everyone wins and loses at some time. Be a fair winner and a good loser. Disappointment at losing is natural, but it should not be obvious to the point of being unpleasant for others. Just as unpleasant can be the boastful winner. Recognise that even in defeat, the loser has achieved something, just by playing. Not everything in life can be a winning situation. Losing can be an important learning experience for your wider life goals.

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Parents' Code of Conduct

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1. Encourage your children to participate for their own interest and enjoyment, not yours.

Support your children in their participation in basketball but do not force them to paly if they don't want to. Sport is played by children for enjoyment and fitness. It is good for their bodies but should also be good for their minds. If they feel too much pressure from you it may make them rebellious or even depressed. It is very tempting for parents who are involved in a sport, or who have children with abilities they wish they had themselves, to try and force the children to participate or to participate at a level to which they do not aspire. Resist the temptation.

2. Encourage children to always play by the rules.

Just as responsible parents teach their children to obey the law of the land, so should those same parents encourage their children to play sport by the rules. If you children show no respect for the rules of the game of basketball, they can also come to believe that breaking the law is acceptable too. If you see your children constantly breaching rules you should be prepared to speak to them at an appropriate time.

3. Teach children that an honest effort is always as important as a victory.

Your children will suffer many disappointments in their lives. You should teach them from an early age that whilst a win in basketball will bring them much pleasure, it is not the most important thing. Participating to the best of their abilities is far more important than winning. You can help them learn this, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

4. Focus on developing skills and playing the game. Reduce the emphasis on winning.

If children see that effort rewarded by an increase in skills, they will derive considerable pleasure and see the importance of striving to improve over the necessity to win every game. Primary responsibility for skills training rests with the children and their coaches but you can assist with

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their enthusiasm by attending games, encouraging them to practice away from formal training and games and even joining in with this practice.

5. A child learns best by example. Applaud good play by all teams.

Acknowledge all good plays whether they are by your children's team or the other team. Good manners and respect can be infectious. If you acknowledge the achievements of your children's opponents it is likely children will follow suit. This can assist to create a positive and supportive climate for all children involved in the game.

6. Do not criticise your, or others' children in front of others.

Reserve constructive criticism of your own children for more private moments. Children can be very sensitive and feel strong humiliation if they are criticised in front of their peers. When you do feel the necessity to speak to your child about something that displeases you, make the effort to explain what the problem is and why you are concerned about it. If you can see some way of avoiding the problem in the future, also explain this to the children. Give your children an opportunity to offer you an explanation. You are not communicating with your children effectively if all the communication is one way.

7. Accept decisions of all acting officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability.

Referees, coaches, scores and all acting officials have a difficult task to perform and your children could not play the game without them. Referees are there to enforce the rules of play, but cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees, coaches, scorers or any person acting an official capacity is unacceptable behaviour. Players who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, discuss it with your children in a constructive manner.

8. Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour and appearance.

Children often learn by example. You are the prime role models for them. Make your parenting rewarding and beyond criticism by leading by example. Do not criticise opposing team members or supporters by word or gesture. Accept loss graciously and applaud the efforts of all playing the game. Do not be one of the "ugly" parents occasionally seen at sporting events.

9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

Parents have considerable influence in how sports are conducted. Often they are called on to perform volunteer work to help organise their and others' children's activities. Use this rewarding

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experience, not just to assist in getting the necessary work performed, but also to influence that atmosphere in which your children play the sport. Children not as fortunate as yours whose parents are not willing or able to be involved may need some guidance on what is or isn't acceptable behaviour.

10. **Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.**

Regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion or other factor irrelevant to the game, all persons connected with basketball are entitled to equal treatment and respect. Avoid any remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory. Sometimes even a joke may give offence. Even if a person refers to themselves with a particular label, it should not be taken as an invitation for you to do so. Using discretion is imperative and it is better to err on the side of caution. Your children will most likely follow your lead in matters of discrimination and vilification.

11. **Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.**

Volunteers are necessary for the functioning of sporting activities. Without them, your child could not participate. Whilst many are parents of people involved in the sport, many are also people dedicated to the sport and its development. Show them the respect and appreciation that they deserve.

12. **Keep children in your care under control.**

Basketball encourages you to bring your children to games. However, there can be dangers to them in a basketball stadium. They can also constitute a danger to players. You should ensure that children with you at a basketball game are well behaved and do not wander onto or too near to courts. They can easily be knocked down by a player or a player can trip over a child when concentrating on the play and not expecting a small child to be in the way.

13. **Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.**

Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use. Discourage layers from engaging in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or "slam dunking". Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but also serious injury can occur.

Spectators' Code of Conduct

Basketball is intended to be a recreation activity for enjoyment and health. This code of conduct has been developed by Basketball Victoria to give participants some guide to the expectations it has of those

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participants. It is intended to assist everyone to obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their involvement in basketball. As a result, the quality of participation will be improved so people are more likely to start and continue their involvement in basketball. Enjoy!

1. Remember that most people play sport for enjoyment. People are not playing basketball for the entertainment of spectators nor are many of them professionals. You should be watching basketball for your own enjoyment and to show support for those playing. Help the players enjoy their game. Applaud good performances from each team. Congratulate all players, regardless of the outcome.
2. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability. Referees and officials have a difficult task to perform. You would not have a game to enjoy without them. They are there to enforce the rules of play but they cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees, coaches, scorers or any person acting in an official capacity is unacceptable behaviour. Spectators who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, accept it graciously – you cannot change it.
3. Always be positive in your support for players. Never ridicule or shout at a player, particularly a young player for making a mistake during a competition. Positive feedback for players will offer encouragement to them and most likely spur them to better things on the court.
4. Condemn the use of violence in any form. Never encourage players to engage in violence or engage in it yourself. Violence has no place in basketball and strong action should be taken to discourage it.
5. Respect your teams' opponents, officials and spectators. Without your teams' opponents, there would be no game. Their supporters are there to enjoy the game as much as you are. Lighthearted banter with an opposing spectator can add a further element of fun to a game. Conversely, nasty or inappropriate behaviour or remarks will seriously detract from it.
6. Encourage players to obey the rules and to accept decisions of officials. Often players can get carried away when spectators become enthusiastic or heated over an issue. This can be a positive but it can also be a negative when it involves such behaviour as disputing decisions. Always encourage players to obey the rules and not dispute referees' decisions.

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Officials Code of Conduct

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1. **Interpret rules and regulations fairly and to match the skill level and the needs of the participants.**

Whilst many requirements of rules are for the safety of those involved in basketball and should never be compromised, others allow flexibility. The age and skills level of the players involved should be taken into account when interpreting rules. As long as you are consistent in interpreting the rule, players and the game should benefit. Use common sense to ensure that the “spirit of the game” is not lost by overcalling technical violations.

2. **Compliment both teams on their efforts.**

You should make an effort to congratulate both sides at the end of the game, not just the winning side. If there has been a problem during the game, by all means raise it, but do so in a constructive manner so that players may learn from your experience and guidance.

3. **Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.**

Objectivity is the single most important characteristic of a good official. It can sometimes be tempting to be easier – or harder, so that you appear to be objective – on a team that you have a connection with. It is also easy to be harder on their opponents or on a team which you believe is not playing the game in the proper spirit or with which you may have had a bad experience in the past. You must resist temptation. Even when you call an infraction, you must do so in a courteous manner.

4. **Promote fair play and appropriate sporting behaviour.**

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Use every opportunity you have to communicate the message that basketball is about fair play, not to be marred by poor behaviour. Condemn the deliberate foul as being unsportsmanlike. If you see an act of good sportsmanship, applaud it.

5. Publicly encourage rule changes.

Officials are in a unique position to judge how rules work and their effect on the game. You should use that position to promote change where you can see a positive benefit to participants' enjoyment of the game from a change.

6. Ensure that both on and off the court your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

Just as you are entitled to the respect of the players, they are entitled to expect that you will act honestly and with integrity. Lead by example – actions speak louder than words. If your standards are down, players and others involved in the sport will see that as a signal that it is acceptable for them to lower their standards.

7. Keep your knowledge current.

Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children. Always attend training programs when they are available, to ensure that your knowledge is current and that your skills are always improving. Read all information that is available to make sure that you don't miss innovation such as rule changes.

8. Help the education process in the game.

Help players learn to play the game. Make sure that players understand rule infractions. Sometimes players dispute decisions because they do not understand the rules correctly. If you perceive that a player hasn't understood a ruling, take the time when it is convenient to explain it to them. If there is a team problem of understanding, approach the coach and outline what the problem is and why it is a problem. Don't feel defensive about explaining your decisions. You are the expert on the court and players are entitled to your constructive guidance.

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9. **Always present yourself in a way which encourages others to respect you and your role.**

In both your demeanour and appearance you should lead by example. Always wear the appropriate uniform and make sure that it is neat and clean. Just as players are expected to be properly attired, so should you be. If you present yourself in a sloppy manner it sends a signal that you may be sloppy in your tasks as an official.

10. **Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.**

Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use. Discourage layers from engaging in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops of "slam dunking". Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but also serious injury can occur.
Thank you, Mooroolbark Flashes Basketball Committee

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