

## YMCA Geelong-Code of Conduct for Parents, Coaches, Spectators and Participants Policy



### OFFICE USE ONLY

Policy Number	Date Approved	Date Last Amended	Status
YG 165-O		April 2007	APPROVED

## 1. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS, COACHES, SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPANTS POLICY

### 2. INTRODUCTION

The YMCA Geelong has Code of Conducts in place to ensure Parents, Coaches, Spectators and Participants ;

- Understand the standards of conduct required at all YMCA Geelong programs

### 3. POLICY

#### 3.1 Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment not yours.
- Encourage children to participate in sport, do not force them.
- Focus on your child's individual efforts, not on whether they win or not.
- Never ridicule a child for making a mistake.
- Always encourage your child to respect their coach and other officials.
- Remember that children learn best by example.
- Appreciate good performances and treat others with respect.
- Respect the decisions made by coaches and judges and use appropriate methods of expressing concern.
- Show appreciation for all coaches, judges and administrators - without them your child could not participate.
- Ensure you know the rules of the gym and teach them to your child.

#### 3.2 Code of Conduct for Administrators

- Make your club environment more user friendly by providing equal opportunities for all to participate.
- Create pathways for young people to participate in sport, not just as an athlete but as judges, coaches and administrators.
- Ensure that the types of programs, rules, and equipment and training times are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.

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- Ensure that everyone emphasizes participation and improvement not only scores.
- Give a code of behavior sheet to all club members and encourage them to follow it.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Maximise child safety by conducting volunteer screenings and other child protection strategies.
- Implement policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- Adopt and implement relevant sport safety policies and practices.
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- Listen to your gymnasts and involve them in decisions, leadership, planning, and evaluation related to the club.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **3.3 Code of conduct for Coaches**

- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and results are only one part of that fun.
- Give all gymnasts your best, regardless of their aptitude.
- Create opportunities for gymnasts to learn appropriate sportsmanship as well as basic skills.
- Give priority to fun activities and skill development over highly structured competition.
- Keep up-to-date with coaching practices and qualifications including the principles of physical and mental growth and development
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- Help young gymnasts to understand that obeying the rules is their responsibility.
- Encourage young people to participate in administration, coaching and judging in addition to their gymnastics.
- Operate within spirit of the rules and teach your gymnasts to do the same.
- Ensure that any physical contact with a gymnast is appropriate to the situation and necessary for skill development and safety.
- Implement relevant sport safety policies and practices.
- Implement policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs
- Listen to your gymnasts and ensure that the time they spend with you is a positive experience
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **3.4 Code of Conduct for Judges**

- Be true to the judge's oath.
- Apply rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of young people and to make

participation more fun.

- Compliment and encourage all gymnasts, you are a role model and a source of gymnast's confidence building.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous.
- Condemn unsporting behavior and promote respect for all.
- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- Implement policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- Ensure the equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all gymnasts.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **3.5 Code of Conduct for Athletes/ Participants**

- Compete by the rules.
- Never argue with officials. If you require clarification have your coach make an enquiry.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your club (team).
- Be a good sport; applaud good performances by your team mates and opposition alike.
- Show respect to and acknowledge your opposition and officials. (E.g. shake hands and wish other athletes good luck, thank your coach and the officials).
- Co-operate with your coach, team mates and opponents.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not to please others.
- Be fair- no verbal abuse of officials, nastiness or vilification.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **3.6 Code of Conduct for Officials and Umpires**

- 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 rules and communicate before a game how you intend to interpret 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
- Compliment both teams on their efforts.
- You should make an effort to congratulate both sides at the end of a 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.
- 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 this temptation. Even when you call an infraction, you must do so in a courteous manner.
- Promote fair play and appropriate sporting behaviour.
- Use every opportunity you have to communicate the message that sport 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 innovations such as rule changes.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 players 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

### 3.7 Code of Conduct for Spectators

- 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 sport for your own enjoyment and to show support for those playing. Help the players to enjoy their game. Applaud good performances from each team.
- Congratulate all players regardless of the outcome.
- 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 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.
- Always be positive in your support for players.
- Never ridicule or shout at a player, particularly a young player for making a mistake during competition. Positive support for players will offer encouragement to them and most likely spur them to better things on the court.
- 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 sport and strong action should be taken to discourage it.
- Respect your team's opponents, officials and spectators.
- Without your team's opponents, there would be no game. Their supporters are there to enjoy the game as much as you are. Light-hearted 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.
- 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 negative when it involves such behaviour as disputing decisions. Always encourage players to obey the rules and do not dispute referees' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Anti social behaviour such as foul or abusive language has no place in sport at a YMCAI. If others engage in it, just ignore them – they will soon tire of it if they get no reaction. Alternatively, ask them politely to desist. If it continues and it is serious, bring it to the attention of an official.
- 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.
  - Keep children in your care under control.
  - YMCA Sports 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 are supervised by an adult.
  - 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. Do not encourage players to engage in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or “slam dunking”. Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues.

Approved by: Chief Executive Officer

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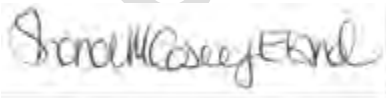
Policy Owner: Chief Executive Officer

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Amendment history:

V1	July 2011	Colin Hunt	Document created
V2	04/04/2014	Shona Eland	Uploaded to YMCA Geelong Policy Template included scope, monitoring and evaluation clauses.

As Adopted and reviewed by the YMCA of Geelong Inc on 04/04/2014



Acting Chief Executive Officer YMCA Geelong Inc.