

# PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

## POLICY STATEMENT

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Everyone involved with the Southern Sports Academy (SSA) has the right to feel safe at all times. As a member of SSA it is important to understand that you have the right to be treated in a non-discriminatory way and receive a fair go, as do all other members. You should treat all participants as you would like to be treated yourself. Cooperation with athletes, squad staff and office staff is crucial to success in SSA and sport in general. Squad staff are expected to respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their ability, gender or cultural background. All SSA squad staff are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity and respect for others and be a responsible citizen and community role model.

The Code of Behaviour should not be read as a series of rules but rather as a practical guide based on a common sense approach to help parents/guardians make decisions in line with SSA values. It outlines the behaviour expected of all parents/guardians.

## EXPECTED BEHAVIOUR

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SSA parents/guardians are expected to:

- Respect decisions of officials and SSA personnel.
- Display appropriate social behaviour by not using profane, demeaning, or derogatory language, or harassing athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
- Always communicate with SSA personnel, including athletes, managers, coaches, officials, administrators and other parents in a calm and respectful manner.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, managers, officials and administrators.
- Report any behaviour by SSA members, including athletes, coaches, managers, officials, administrators and other parents, that you believe contravenes the SSA Codes of Behaviour, to the Executive Officer, SSA Chairman or Member Protection Information Officer.
- Respect the right, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Leave facilities free from litter or other mess.
- Always be a positive role model for children.

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## **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR**

The following are deemed unacceptable behaviours by SSA parents/guardians and are grounds for sanctions undertaken:

- Discriminating against, harassing, bullying or making derogatory or demeaning remarks about, or to anyone.
- Exhibitions of poor sportsmanship (including abuse of officials/coaches/athletes).
- Making insulting comments towards someone in relation to their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Making any sexual comments or advances that offend, intimidate or humiliate others.
- Males entering rooms of females, females entering rooms of males whilst at SSA camps/events.
- Being in the possession of offensive materials at SSA events.
- Gambling, wagering or betting at or on SSA events.
- Knowingly circulating false or misleading information about any SSA athlete or member.
- Misrepresenting the nature or extent of an injury or illness to allow an athlete to participate in a competition, training camp or other similar activity when such participation is inconsistent with the appropriate medical response to the injury or illness.
- Not respecting all property and facilities utilised by SSA including accommodation, furnishings, uniforms and equipment.
- Not respecting the personal property of SSA athletes, squad staff or members.
- Borrowing money from SSA squad staff.

Note: No policy can address, in specific fashion, all possible situations, which may take place. When this policy does not address a specific behaviour, parents/guardians are expected to conduct themselves and their activities in a spirit of social responsibility and respect for others.

Whilst SSA staff and squad staff will provide as much supervision as possible in attempting to fulfil their duty of care to athletes, athletes and their parents/guardians should be aware that direct 24 hour supervision for all athletes is not always possible. Consequently, all SSA members will be accountable for their own actions at all times whether under direct or indirect supervision of staff.

## **BREACH OF POLICY**

Parents/guardians who are found to be in breach of this Code of Behaviour may be asked to leave SSA training sessions or events. Depending on the severity of the breach, parents/guardians may be banned from all SSA events.

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