

Sporting Code of Conduct

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 In partnership with Good News Lutheran College

# A ‘Fair Go’ For Young Australians

# Australians are justifiably proud of the place sport has in their daily lives. What is equally important to us all is the way the game is played and the manner in which our sportsmen and sportswomen conduct themselves.

Unfortunately, some people fail to live up to the traditional values of sport. Worse still, young people can be influenced and the rest of their sporting lives coloured by these experiences.

These Codes of Behaviour identify a series of key principles on which young players, and their parents, coaches, teachers, administrators, officials, the media and spectators should base their sporting involvement. If adopted, the codes will ensure that young people develop good sporting behaviours and have an enjoyable experience of sport, which will encourage them to remain involved throughout their lives. Adopting this code of conduct will also strengthen the shared values and outcomes of the Good News Lutheran College in which we are in an active partnership with.

*In an effort to ensure a safe environment for all our children, volunteers who are involved in the club will need to have a ‘****Working With Children Check’*** *. These checks will need to be in place prior to working with children. Please see the club secretary for further details.*

The Good News Power Basketball Club (GNPBC) is dedicated to providing its members with a club that encourages participation of both the players and its parents whilst encouraging them to be proactive in their approach to their child’s sport.

All children no matter of gender, cultural background or social background should have an opportunity to develop and play basketball. The GNPBC is committed to the premise that sports generally, and basketball specifically, will enhance the lives of our children, through an appreciation for the value of exercise, the camaraderie of being part of a team, the ability to breakdown cultural and ethnic barriers and the joy of play. Participation in GNPBC will contribute to development of character, individual and team skills, a sense of fair play, the will to win, teamwork, sportsmanship and recognition of the rewards of hard work, attributes that will serve our children well both on and off the court. GNPBC strives to build a solid foundation that leads to a lifetime of participation in sports. GNPBC is committed to building and maintaining an active partnership with Good News Lutheran College, in providing an outlet for students to participate in competitive sport.

# Administrators’ Code

*The administrator (or administration team) is the key figure in making sure that the spirit of the game is ‘Friendship first; competition second.’*

1. Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all participants, regardless of ability, sex, age or limitation.
2. Involve players in the planning, leadership and evaluation of the activity.
3. Do not allow any sport programs to become primarily spectator entertainment.
4. Equipment and facilities must meet safety standards and be appropriate to the maturity level of the players involved.
5. Ensure the availability of a qualified first-aider and necessary first-aid equipment.
6. Length of training sessions should take into consideration the age and maturity level of the players involved.
7. Remember that play is done for its own sake. Downplay the importance of awards.
8. Distribute a Code of Ethics for good sportsmanship to spectators, coaches, players, officials, parents and news media.
9. Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their authority and their responsibility for fair play in sports.
10. Ensure that proper supervision is provided by certified or proven coaches and officials are capable of promoting good sportsmanship and good technical skills.
11. Offer clinics to improve the standards of coaching and officiating, with emphasis on good sportsmanship.

#### Spectators’ Code

***Fans don’t play fair when they mistake young people at play, for professional entertainers.***

1. Remember that young people play organised sport for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you, and they are not miniature pro-athletes.
2. Be on your best behaviour. Don’t use profane language or harass players, coaches or officials.
3. Applaud good plays by both your own team and the opposition team.
4. Show respect for your team’s opponents. Without them, there would be no games.
5. Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during a competition.
6. Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
7. Respect the officials’ decisions - always.
8. Encourage players always to play according to the rules.
9. Spectators will not interfere with the coach of either side. The coach shall be allowed to lead the team without interference.



**Parents’ Code**

***Where does a young person learn to be a ‘good sport’? At home. By the time they join a team, a sense of sportsmanship (or lack thereof) is already well established.***

1. Do not force a young person, who is unwilling, to participate in sports.
2. Inform the coach of any physical conditions which your child suffers from, e.g. asthma.
3. Provide your child with correct uniform and protective gear if necessary.
4. Remember – young people are involved in organised sports for their own enjoyment, not yours.
5. Encourage all participants to play by the rules.
6. Convey to our young people that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
7. Turn defeat to victory by encouraging participants to work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at players for making a mistake or losing a competition.



1. Remember that young people learn best by example. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
2. Do not publicly question the officials’ judgement and never their honesty.
3. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from young people’s sporting activities.
4. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for our young people.
5. Compliment and recognise achievement by your own family members as well as other players, and encourage them to feel proud of their accomplishments.
6. It is important to direct any major issues regarding coaches to the Coordinator. Some coaches, especially our younger coaches, may not have the experience in dealing with parents’ concerns that a Coordinator does.

#### Coaches’ Code

The successful coach invests more in the well-being and interests of the players than in their win-loss record.

1. Be reasonable in your demands on the players’ time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
2. Teach your players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
3. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The ‘just-average’ players need and deserve equal time.
4. Remember that young people play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a competition.
5. The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the participants.
6. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
7. Follow the advice of a doctor when determining if an injured player is ready to play again.
8. Remember that players need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
9. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of young people.



1. Recognise and celebrate a player’s successes and help them to feel proud of their accomplishments, and encourage all team members to do the same.
2. Be aware of any players with conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, etc., or any physical limitations or restrictions.

**Players’ Code**

It isn’t whether you win or lose, but how you play the game!

1. Play for the “fun of it”, not just to please your parents or coach.
2. Play by the rules.
3. Never argue with the officials’ decision. Let your captain or coach ask any necessary questions.
4. Respect for your coach is paramount for the successful running of a team. Follow their instructions, speak respectfully to them and of them at all times. Resolve conflicts privately with them, or through the Coaching Coordinator if unresolved.
5. Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents, for without them you don’t have a game.
6. Control your temper – no “mouthing off”, throwing/kicking balls or other equipment.
7. Work equally hard for yourself and your team – your team’s performance will benefit and so will your own.
8. Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays, whether your team’s or your opponent’s.
9. Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated. Don’t interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
10. Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. Don’t be a ‘show-off’ or always try to get the most points or penalties.
11. Compliment and recognise achievements of your fellow players and encourage them to feel proud of their accomplishments, and encourage all your team members to do the same.
12. Feel proud of your own accomplishments, whether it is in skill, effort, or treatment of others.
13. If players ‘sub’ for other teams please remember that your first priority is your own team.

#### Media Code

***It is preferable to have no media coverage at all rather than coverage which is of a biased, unfair or distorted nature.***

1. Provide coverage of young people’s sport as well as reporting adult sport.
2. Be aware of the difference between adult sports programs and young people’s sports programs.
3. Young people are not miniature professionals and adults should not have unfair expectations of them.
4. Place in proper perspective the isolated incidents or unsportsmanlike behaviour rather than make such incidents the “highlight” of the event.
5. Focus upon fair play and the honest efforts of players.
6. Identify and report on the benefits of young people participating in sport.
7. Be aware of the difference between the goals of amateur sports and those of professional sports. Make the readers, viewers and listeners aware of these differences. Make it clear that the professional is an entertainer and wage earner and this, on occasions may be reflected in the professional athlete’s behaviour.
8. The taking of photographs or video footage for use on webpages, social media sites, printed media or other public forums is unacceptable. Photographs or video of other players need to have granted permission first.



1. Be a good member of your community. Don’t use social media (eg: Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube) for posting negative comments or videos about other teams, team members, coaches, officials or incidents at any time.