

**SAHISA CENTRAL REGION
PREPARATORY SCHOOLS' SPORTS COMMITTEE
SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT BETWEEN MEMBER SCHOOLS**

Member schools are committed to promoting an active involvement in sport for all of its pupils, seeking both the widest possible pupil participation and the pursuit of excellence. That commitment is based upon the value that sport can have for pupils, in contributing to a healthy way of life, in developing confidence and self-esteem, in encouraging involvement in a team and in competition within a culture of good conduct and sportsmanship.

A: Ethos

Since the purpose of school sport is to enhance the educational, personal and physical development of the pupils, it is the responsibility of the Head, through delegation of the Director of Sport or equivalent, to ensure that the behaviour of staff coaches and parents actively supports these aims. In particular, all players, coaches, spectators and parents are expected to display the highest standards of behaviour. Schools should have a clear "Code of Conduct" which is communicated to pupils, staff and parents. Foul and offensive language, provocative behaviour and any challenge to the authority of referees / umpires must be expressly forbidden.

All schools must ensure that the staff responsible for sport in the school, whether full-time members of staff or external sports coaches, are fully aware of the ethos and culture of inter-school sport.

Schools must strive to ensure, as far as possible, that an individual pupil's sporting experience is balanced and does not jeopardise his/her educational and personal development.

B: Health & Safety

It is the responsibility of the host school to ensure that all facilities meet Health and Safety standards. All relevant risk assessments should be conducted and regularly reviewed by appropriately qualified persons.

Information regarding access to medical provision should be available to opponents and any concerns resolved prior to fixtures being played. Host schools are expected to review their provision regularly and look to be proactive in the area of player safety.

However, the following requirements are compulsory for all member schools:

1. An ambulance is required to be present at all rugby fixtures.
2. A qualified first aid officer is required to be present at all hockey fixtures.
3. The smoking by-laws clearly state that all schools are smoke-free zones.

C: The machinery of matches

i. Fixtures

Schools should seek to manage fixtures effectively in order to ensure games are of an appropriate standard and provide a positive experience for pupils.

Schools should strive as hard as possible to avoid the cancellation of fixtures except for the reasons of weather/playing conditions. When a cancellation is unavoidable, as much notice as possible should be provided. In the event that unforeseen circumstances prompt a cancellation, the Heads of both schools should be informed.

Schools are encouraged to provide details of their school field layout on their websites.

It is expected that each team will be accompanied by a member of staff.



It is also expected that the relevant school has adequate first aid in place for fixtures and have suitable measures in place, in order to ensure a safe environment.

The confirmation of fixtures should be done at least one working week in advance. During this process of confirmation the following should be discussed:

1. Venues
2. Starting & ending times
3. Number of teams
4. Clarity in terms of rules

ii. Selection of teams

The policy for team selection is the responsibility of each individual school. Member schools are encouraged to consider the following issues in selecting their teams:

1. A player should be fit and able to cope with the level for which he/she is selected
2. A player should be of the correct age. In a case where a player is not playing in his/her correct age group, it is the responsibility of the relevant school's Director of Sport or equivalent to inform the opposition school's counterpart.
3. Schools should attempt to manage the demands of representing school, club, academy, province and country in the best interests of the pupils. Relevant parties are expected to discuss and resolve potential conflicts in a spirit of mutual co-operation.
4. In co-educational schools, the inclusion of a girl / boy pupil in a boy / girl team must be carefully considered.

iii. Refereeing / Umpiring

It is the responsibility of schools to ensure that the refereeing / umpiring is of an acceptable standard and arranged in advance of fixtures. Ideally, staff should have the appropriate qualifications and schools should provide opportunities for staff to access refereeing / umpiring courses.

With regards to rugby, all coaches and officials are required to be BokSmart accredited.

iv. Hospitality

Visiting sides should be met and greeted on arrival, and be provided with suitable changing and preparation facilities.

Schools should offer visiting staff and pupils refreshments (of the host school's choosing) at some point during a fixture.

D: Guidance for Players

1. Players may be hard and vigorous, but deliberate violence should never be used towards opponents.
2. Verbal provocation of any sort is unacceptable.
3. Players should not react with violence to any physical or verbal provocation.
4. Use of bad language, whether directed at an umpire / referee / spectator, another player or oneself, is unacceptable.
5. Players should never argue with an umpire / referee (whether staff member or student coach) or contest a decision. Any negative response towards an umpire's ruling is unacceptable. (A Captain – only – may ask a referee to clarify a ruling in the event of uncertainty).



6. Immodest behaviour in victory or success, and the manifestation of self disgust at an error or failure are poor sportsmanship. Gracious conduct, whatever the result of a game, is important.
7. Unfair or illegal tactics to gain an advantage should never be used.
8. Excessive or inappropriate talk should not be used on the field of play or after an event. Players are encouraged to play in a positive and sportsman-like manner and to extend every courtesy to the opposing team. This should include pre-match courtesies, recognition of good play of the opposition and extending thanks to the umpire / referee and to the opposition after the match.

E: Guidance for Coaches

1. All coaches (and particularly those who are not on the teaching staff) should ensure that they are fully aware of the expectations and practices of the school in which they are coaching. Coaches should remember that school sport plays an important role in a student's education and is for the benefit of students rather than adults.
2. Coaches should teach sound sportsmanship along with game skills; chivalrous conduct is an important element of school sport.
3. Coaches are asked to bear in mind that all school students need guidance; make clear the school's expectations regarding courtesies, punctuality, behaviour and dress.
4. Leadership and responsibility on the part of the captain should be encouraged. Coaches should refrain from running every detail or interjecting from the sidelines. (It is acknowledged that traditions and practices differ between, say, basketball on the one hand and, on the other, cricket).
5. Coaches should not engage in excessive and ritual "psyching up" of a team.
6. If a match is lost, coaches should avoid stating or giving the impression to players that bad refereeing decisions cost them the game.
7. Coaches should avoid any hint of criticising the umpiring or refereeing of a match particularly in front of students or parents.
8. A coach's aim should be always to coach in such a way that students are able to learn for themselves.
9. Coaches are encouraged to establish and regularly renew cordial relations with the coaches of opposing teams.

F: Spectators

1. Parents are asked to make their presence and support as positive as possible.
2. If your school is the host, parents are asked to assume some responsibility for making visiting parents feel at home.
3. When visiting another school, the host school's premises and rules - in matters of parking, tidiness, etc. should be respected.
4. Parents should never seek, during or immediately after a match, to give advice to coaches, umpires/referees or to players.
5. Barracking may be enthusiastic, should be positive rather than negative, avoiding excessive attention to the individual even to praise him. A good example should be set by applauding skilful performance and play regardless of school.
6. Parents can assist their son's fuller education by being sensible about the number and length of his sporting commitments. While these are regulated within the school context, parents should see that other outside sporting involvement does not interfere unduly with academic study, religious activities, cultural and social life, as well as time spent with the family.



G: Common Principles

The Heads of the Gauteng Preparatory Schools have reaffirmed their commitment to the following principles:

We believe that all sport is valuable. It exists for the benefit of the boys and girls and must assume its proper place alongside academic, spiritual, cultural and social development.

1. Success at sport involves more than mere winning, which - while enjoyable and worthwhile - is only one of the potential benefits.
2. We all value our close association as Preparatory schools in Gauteng. The Heads are committed to maintaining the strength of our close working ties and recognise that any action taken by an individual school against the spirit of the Code of Practice will have adverse consequences, both on the group as a whole, and on individual members.

H: Code of Practice

In the light of these principles, the Independent Preparatory Schools Heads affirm the following code of practice:

No inducements such as sporting scholarships, whether direct, disguised, or at arm's length, shall be offered by any member school. Financial assistance to talented sportsmen shall not form part of the enrolment strategy of any member school.

We affirm that the Head of each school is responsible for knowing the special circumstances relating to the admission of boys / girls to his / her school.

1. In the selection and training of learners in teams, the good of the individual boy / girl shall remain paramount.
2. While allowing for some exceptional circumstances, we believe that it is poor educational practice for a boy / girl to engage in a single sport throughout the year.

I: Implementation

The Sports Code of Conduct is heavily dependant on the correct implementation of the principles mentioned above.

Therefore each school / professional body that wishes to adhere to the Gauteng Preparatory School Sports Code of Conduct undertakes that:

1. Each learner registered at that school, together with their parent / legal guardian sign to acknowledge and in agreement to adhere to the terms stated in the Code of Conduct. The document then gets placed in the relevant learner's administration file;
2. Each member school / professional sporting body that wishes to adhere to the Code of Conduct sign the document. (Principal to sign);
3. The relevant school will be issued with a certificate of acceptance for display purposes.



I, the undersigned, as Principal / Chairperson have read and understood the Gauteng Preparatory Schools' Sports Code of Conduct. I also accept the Code as set out above and fully intend to implement it as intended. I also accept that should any of the guidelines and intended behaviours as set out above be contravened in any way, the opposition school / sporting entity is fully within its rights to deal with the misdemeanour in a fair and transparent way that it is both fair and suitable.

Full name _____

Signed _____ at _____
(place) on

the ____ (date) of _____ (month) _____ (year).

I, the undersigned, as parent / legal guardian have read and understood the Gauteng Preparatory Schools' Sports Code of Conduct. I also accept the code as set out above and undertake to abide by its guidelines and intended behaviours. I also accept that should any of the guidelines and intended behaviours as set out above be contravened in any way, the school / committee is fully within its rights to deal with the misdemeanour in a fair and transparent way that it is both fair and suitable.

Parent / Legal Guardian's Full name

Child's full name _____

Signed _____ at _____
(place) on

the ____ (date) of _____ (month) _____ (year).

