

PLAYER AND SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code

As a community-based club, Aberfeldie Netball Club is committed to adhering to the Victorian Government and Netball Victoria's Code of Conduct. The Club would like to focus on the Code of Conduct and how important it is that these ideals translate into real 'on court' behaviours every Saturday.

It is important that players understand the following expectations of them are reasonable and valued by everyone - their coaches, parents, other players etc.

- Play by the rules - Know the rules
- Participate fairly and safely
- Abide by decisions without argument or bad temper
- Captains have the right to approach an umpire during an interval or after the game for clarification of any rule
- Approach an umpire in a courteous and polite way
- Co-operate with your coach and other players
- No verbal abuse of officials or other players
- No deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent
- No intimidation of other players (eg hands in face, verbal taunts, physically aggressive/threatening behaviour/bullying)
- Treat ALL players as you would like to be treated
- Ensure that at all times your behaviour is fair
- Be a patient and enthusiastic supporter of fellow players
- Applaud all good play by your own team and opponents

Player Aggression

OURS: Unduly aggressive behaviour ie pushing off with elbows, dropped shoulders, ramming etc. needs to be seen as the 'less skilled' way to behave - (Young players need help to avoid bad habits developing - young players are also not emotionally mature enough to handle the negative repercussions they face after this behaviour - eg returned aggression, umpires' involvement, Association involvement - parents'/spectator behaviour)

THEIRS: Players also need to know how to deal with others' aggression without losing it! Please encourage young players to be resilient - hold their position confidently / not resort to retaliation - If players know they have support and encouragement - and they can approach the umpire with problems - they should feel much more relaxed about dealing with aggressive behaviour on the court.

Spectator Code

All parents and spectators understand that it is not appropriate for them to comment to or about umpires or opponents within earshot of the game. The appropriate procedure if parents wish to comment on the game is through the Coach, Team Manager or Game Day Official.

It is not fair on our umpires or the players, if they have to contend with the views of parents as well as trying to perform at their best during the game. Adults 'having a go' at children (regardless of the reason) - in any context would be called bullying. It's far more encouraging to cheer and support our players throughout a game rather than berate opponents or umpires. We need to ensure we are helping guide them not only with netball skills, but the attitudes and philosophy that will help them enjoy every game - win or lose! All adults and team-mates need to lead by example, especially with younger players. Winning is good but playing as well as you can and having a great time will always be better.