

## **Bede's School** **Sports Code of Conduct**

***This sports Code of Conduct is intended for coaches, players, officials, parents and spectators.***

### **1. The Aim of the Code of Conduct**

The aim of this code of conduct is to provide a set of guiding principles for all stakeholders involved in sport at Bede's School. The code of conduct is applicable to both match and practice situations.

### **2. This Code of Conduct is designed to:**

- i. maintain the element of enjoyment in sport;
- ii. encourage all learners to participate in sport in order to promote healthy living;
- iii. make parents aware that students play sport for the enjoyment of the child concerned;
- iv. improve the confidence, psychological well being and physical fitness of our students by making sport attractive, safe and enjoyable for everyone;
- v. remind administrators, coaches, referees, umpires and parents that sport must be administered, taught and provided for the good of those students who wish to participate in the different sporting codes offered at Bede's school;
- vi. keep in perspective that the abovementioned goals, as well as learners' personal development and growth in understanding teamwork and learning sportsmanlike behaviour, are more important than winning any one match/game;
- vii. protect players, coaches, teachers and parents from any form of abuse.
- viii. to promote the good reputation of Bede's School in the wider community

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## **Our players should:-**

- i. play the game for the purpose of their enjoyment whilst competing to the best of their ability
- ii. demonstrate respect for the rules of the game and play in a manner that shows pride in their actions.
- iii. maintain the school's reputation for fair play. Foul play or poor conduct (including swearing and arguing with the referee) is unacceptable and will be regarded in a very serious light
- iv. refrain from using any foul or offensive language and refrain from sledging;
- v. refrain from boastful or arrogant behaviour and always applaud good play from both their own team and the opposition.
- vi. treat all match officials and coaches with respect
- vii. accept the decision of the team selection of their coach with grace
- viii. be positive in making any comments with their team mates and should be encouraging at all times, acting as a role model regardless of your position with the team.
- ix. wear the correct team dress as dictated by the school and travel in appropriate school uniform.
- x. attend all practices and matches unless they have an acceptable excuse. Coaches should always be informed well in advance of any absences before the practice or match is about to commence. Any injured players should attend and remain at practices in order to assist the coach and listen to any information about tactics and skills.
- xi. arrive punctually for all practices/transportation and matches.
- xii. should be prepared to take responsibility for helping with all kit, any extra duties and should treat all equipment and playing kit that is issued to them in the correct manner.
- xiii. should prepare themselves for the game in a professional manner.
- xiv. learn the laws of the games and abide by them.

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Any player whom it is established has transgressed any material principle of this Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Director of Sport who shall determine sanctions or whether it should be reported to senior management.

## **Our coaches should:-**

- i. be honest in their assessment of players and in their team selection.
- ii. inform players of weaknesses in their game whilst offering ideas for improvement.
- iii. instil the correct attitude towards training and representing the school and team.
- iv. be positive throughout the game/practice in their comments and conduct.
- v. ensure practices start on time with the correct equipment and a goal for each session.
- vi. encourage parental support at matches that is appropriate.
- vii. inform players of the arrangements for the fixture which includes standard of dress, time of start and team selection.
- viii. never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a game
- ix. refrain from using inappropriate language at all times
- x. develop the players' respect for their own team members, for opponents, as well as for the referees, umpires and opposition coaches
- xi. be generous with praise and provide constructive and positive criticism;
- xii. insist on fair play, and never tolerate gloating, foul play, fighting, or foul language
- xiii. insist on a disciplined approach by all players;

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- ix ensure that all team results are passed back to the Director of Sport for publication in assembly and on the school web site.
- xiv. ensure that the players understand their roles and responsibilities as stated above.

## **Our Spectators and Parents should:-**

- i. understand and appreciate that school sport is not about "winning at all cost", and to recognize the values instilled by the student's participation and the opportunities it provides for social interaction, fun and competition
- ii. remember that the students are involved in the sport of their choice for their enjoyment
- iii. encourage the students to learn the rules/laws of the sport
- iv. ensure that the student owns and wears the correct sporting uniform to practices and matches
- v. teach the students the value of sportsmanship and fair play
- vi. never ridicule or berate students in the team for making a mistake or losing a game
- vii. remember that young people learn by example. Spectators and parents should applaud good play and reserve their judgement on poor play
- viii. never publicly question a coach's, referee's or umpire's judgement or honesty
- ix. never use offensive language, or threaten players, coaches, referees, umpires or other spectators
- x. respect the role of the coach or match official and recognize their authority on the field
- xi. respect the coach's decision in making team selection decisions and
- xii. understand that it is the coach's right to select whom he/she believes to be the most appropriate team in the circumstances
- xiii. respect the opposition players and coaches

- xiv. communicate any concerns or issues through the correct channels

**Any parent or other person responsible for the welfare of any player who wishes to communicate any concern must make the approach in a civil manner and tone and by making a prior appointment with the relevant coach/sports administrator to discuss the matter arising during a mutually convenient time and place to all concerned. This approach should be made in such a manner so as not to be overheard by others and with a positive objective in mind (e.g. to prevent injury or correcting unacceptable behaviour) and not solely for the purposes of venting anger.**

**3. In the instance of the following prohibited acts the school will act on and apply sanctions.**

**No parent, spectator, coach or match official should ever:-**

- i. initiate a fight or any type of other physical or verbal abuse or intimidation including the use of unacceptable language directed towards any player, coach, official or other spectator.
- ii. threaten any form of physical abuse toward any player, coach, spectator or match official
- iii. enter the field of play for the purpose of physically or verbally abusing or confronting any player, coach or match official
- iv. conduct himself or herself in such a manner that materially brings the good name of St Bede's into disrepute

Such conduct which falls foul of the principles set out above should in the first instance be brought to the attention of the Headmaster, the Deputy Head Co-Curricular and the Director of Sport, who will make further investigations into the alleged incident and take appropriate action.

Any person who is alleged to have contravened these principles set out in this Code of Conduct will be given the opportunity to present his or her position in relation to the alleged incident to the Deputy Head Co-Curricular who will deal with the issue as they see fit after investigation.