

# Ansett Basketball Club

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## CODE OF BEHAVIOUR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

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### Emphasise trying hard and having fun, not only winning

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child/young player for making a mistake or not winning. Positive comments are motivational.

### Honour the sport

- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Support involvement in modified rules games and other junior development programs.
- Show appreciation for all good performance and skilful plays by all players (including opposing players).
- Congratulate all participants, regardless of the game's outcome.
- Support policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol, to child protection issues and to issues involving recreational and performance enhancing drugs.

### Integrity and Respect

- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Be respectful and mindful of other basketball participants and officials when using electronic/social media.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.
- Condemn the use of violence, verbal abuse or vilification in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone associated with the sports (player, coach, umpire and so on).
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.

# Let Kids be Kids

## stop poor sideline behaviour in junior sport



that's **60%**

Here's what they want from sport



1. To have fun.
2. To do something they're good at.
3. To improve their skills.
4. To stay in shape.
5. To get exercise.<sup>2</sup>

**Sport is generally a positive experience for most kids, but... 75%**

A UK study showed that 75% of children who participated in organised sport up to the age of 16 had been criticised for their performance, had been shouted or sworn at or had been embarrassed or humiliated by a coach, parent, peer or sports administrator.<sup>3</sup>

"Mum and Dad, I sure love sports, but it seems like my sports make you guys angry more than they make you happy."<sup>5</sup>



Australian research shows that aggressive behaviour on the sidelines is embarrassing junior footballers, making them lose confidence and can lead to them quitting the sport.<sup>4</sup>

How to recognise poor behaviour

1. Emphasis on winning/results
2. Abuse/intimidation of coaches/officials
3. Excessive instruction from the sideline
4. Putting down children in front of others
5. Criticise performances on the drive home

Positive things we can do

- Respect all athletes, coaches and officials
- Support, encourage and praise efforts
- Be enthusiastic and positive
- Emphasise fun and enjoyment
- Be quiet and listen

Free resources to help

Free toolkit:  
<http://playbytherules.net.au/let-kids-be-kids>



1 4156.0 – Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2012.  
2 Clark, M. A. (n.d.). Winning! How Important Is It in Youth Sports? Retrieved November 11, 2004.  
3 Kate Alexander, Anne Stafford, Ruth Lewis (2011). The experiences of children participating in organised sport in the UK. The University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Child Protection Research Centre.  
4 Samuel Elliott and Murray Drummond. "Parents in youth sport: what happens after the game?" Sport, Education and Society, May 6, 2015.  
5 O'Sullivan, John (31 January 2017). 'An open letter from the back seat' in Sports Parenting.