

SPORTING BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

**Positive attitudes and conduct make sport enjoyable for everyone.
The experience can be ruined by poor behaviour.**



**SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

POOR BEHAVIOUR

WHAT IS POOR SPORTING BEHAVIOUR...

Poor behaviour can include:

- Undue pressure
- Abuse
- Taunting
- Poor sportsmanship
- Offensive language
- Harassment
- Bullying
- Favouritism
- Victimisation
- Aggressive language or behaviour

It can be:

- Physical, verbal or written
- During competition, on the side-line, at training, the club or outside of the sporting arena
- Coaches, competitors, parents, spectators, officials, or administrators who behave poorly. These people, children, or adults, can be the victim of poor conduct too.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF POOR SPORTING BEHAVIOUR...

Poor behaviour in sport results in:

- Risk to people's well-being and reduced enjoyment for everyone
- Children and adults giving up sport
- Fewer people willing to volunteer for coaching, officiating and other roles
- Risks to clubs and organisational reputation and management

HOW DO WE RECOGNISE POOR SPORTING BEHAVIOUR...

Early and subtle indicators of poor (or potential poor) behaviour can include:

- Emphasis on winning & results
- Back seat coaching
- Talking about children only in the context of their sporting success

It can extend to:

1. Abuse/intimidation of coaches and/or officials
2. Excessive instruction from the side-line
3. Putting children down in front of others
4. Criticising performances on the drive home



POOR BEHAVIOUR (CONT.)

HOW DO WE PREVENT IT...

Preventing poor conduct and behaviour requires:

1. Club/organisational management being prepared and knowing what to do
2. Everyone adopting a positive sporting attitude and accepting responsibility for their behaviour
3. Club/organisation's coaches and sport leaders proactively educating their club to ensure this happens and that members understand issues such as

Surf Life Saving SA will:

- ✓ Promote and reference the [SLSA Member Protection Policy](#) and Code of Conduct regularly and via multiple platforms and avenues
- ✓ Use simple fair play messages in relevant sport documentation, on beach signage & carnival announcements
- ✓ Seek role models and ambassadors to talk to nipper and youth members, parents and coaches
- ✓ Empower officials and leaders to call out poor behaviour
- ✓ Promote [Play by the Rules 'Let Kids be Kids'](#) course completion by leaders and parents

Clubs are encouraged to:

- » Adopt similar actions to SLSSA (as above)
- » Call out/ report poor behaviour
- » Educate their members by circulating this document and similar resources



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OUR EXPECTATIONS

In line with the Code of Conduct outlined in the SLSA Member Protection Policy, Surf Life Saving SA's expectations of our sport participants and volunteers include (not limited to):

COMPETITORS

DO

- ✓ Be fair, considerate, and honest with others
- ✓ Show respect to coaches and officials
- ✓ Be responsible for your own actions
- ✓ Thank coaches, officials, and all volunteers
- ✓ Be a positive role model

DON'T

- ✗ Use offensive language
- ✗ Throw equipment
- ✗ Cheat
- ✗ Comment on officials' decisions
- ✗ Put down other competitors

PARENTS

DO

- ✓ Be enthusiastic
- ✓ Cheer and acknowledge good competition by ALL competitors and teams
- ✓ Accept officials' decisions – they are human & can make mistakes
- ✓ Remain in allocated spectator areas at all times
- ✓ Thank the coaches and officials
- ✓ Volunteer to help

DON'T

- ✗ Scream or yell
- ✗ Use offensive language
- ✗ Use aggressive language or behaviour
- ✗ Comment on officials' decisions
- ✗ Put too much pressure on your child
- ✗ Ridicule or criticise your child or the coach
- ✗ Take on the role of coach

COACHES

DO

- ✓ Respect other competitors, coaches & officials
- ✓ Thank the officials and parents
- ✓ Emphasise trying hard and having fun
- ✓ Build confidence
- ✓ Reward effort
- ✓ Be warm & welcoming to parents

DON'T

- ✗ Scream or yell
- ✗ Use offensive language
- ✗ Comment on officials' decisions
- ✗ Put too much pressure on children
- ✗ Ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake
- ✗ Use scare tactics
- ✗ Use aggressive language or behaviour

OFFICIALS

DO

- ✓ Always be fair, impartial & consistent
- ✓ Encourage and praise good sporting behaviour
- ✓ Communicate clearly
- ✓ Place safety & welfare of children above all else
- ✓ Ensure sufficient space for competition arenas

DON'T

- ✗ Play favourites
- ✗ Allow poor behaviour
- ✗ Use aggressive language or behaviour



NOT MEETING EXPECTATION

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BEHAVIOUR DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATION...

Minor/first offence

1. Unacceptable behaviour is called out by ANYONE
2. The team manager (from the offender's Club) is alerted and ensures immediate:
 - a. Identification of offence, and
 - b. Reminder re acceptable behaviour as per role & that repeat offence will result in removal from beach carnival zone

Subsequent/major offence

1. Unacceptable behaviour is called out by ANYONE
2. The team manager (from the offender's Club) is alerted and ensures immediate:
 - a. Removal from beach carnival zone
3. The complaint is lodged due to a breach of the Member Protection Policy
4. [SLSA Complaints resolution flow chart](#) followed for a resolution

IF YOU WITNESS POOR BEHAVIOUR...CALL IT OUT

PLEASE REMEMBER

These are KIDS
They are here to have FUN

The Officials and Coaches are
VOLUNTEERS
Medals are great

BUT
Personal improvement is BETTER

A MESSAGE TO ALL PARENTS

Your child's success or lack of success
in sport does not indicate what kind of
parent you are.

BUT

Having a child that is coachable,
respectful, a great teammate, mentally
tough, resilient and tries their best IS a
direct reflection of your parenting.

CONTACT

For further information or queries, please contact your Club Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO).
Alternatively, you can contact the SLSSA MPIO via development@surflifesavingsa.com.au or on 8354 6900.



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