

# SPORTING ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT



Positive attitudes and conduct make sport enjoyable for everyone.

## NEGATIVE BEHAVIOUR AND CONDUCT

### WHAT IS NEGATIVE SPORTING CONDUCT...

This can include, but is not limited to:

- Undue pressure
- Abuse
- Taunting
- Poor sportsmanship
- Offensive language
- Harassment
- Bullying
- Inadequate Volunteering
- Victimisation

It can be in the form of:

- 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 volunteers, children or adults, can also be the victim of negative conduct.

### WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF A NEGATIVE SPORTING ENVIRONMENT...

- 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 A NEGATIVE SPORTING ENVIRONMENT...

Early and subtle indicators of a negative environment 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

### HOW DO WE PREVENT IT...

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 the issues that may arise.

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 or negative behaviours
- ✓ 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 and negative behaviour
- Educate their members by circulating this document and similar resources

# 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	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Be fair, considerate, and honest with others</li><li>✓ Show respect to coaches and officials</li><li>✓ Be responsible for your own actions</li><li>✓ Thank coaches, officials, and all volunteers</li><li>✓ Be a positive role model</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Use offensive language</li><li>✗ Throw equipment</li><li>✗ Deliberately cheat/disadvantage other competitors</li><li>✗ Comment on officials' decisions</li><li>✗ Put down other competitors</li></ul>

## PARENTS

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Be enthusiastic</li><li>✓ Cheer and acknowledge good competition by ALL competitors and teams</li><li>✓ Accept officials' decisions – they are human &amp; can make mistakes</li><li>✓ Remain in allocated spectator areas at all times</li><li>✓ Thank the coaches and officials</li><li>✓ Volunteer to help</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Scream or yell</li><li>✗ Use offensive language</li><li>✗ Use aggressive language or behaviour</li><li>✗ Comment on officials' decisions</li><li>✗ Put too much pressure on your child</li><li>✗ Ridicule or criticise your child or the coach</li><li>✗ Take on the role of coach</li></ul>

## COACHES

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Respect other competitors, coaches &amp; officials</li><li>✓ Thank the officials and parents</li><li>✓ Emphasise trying hard and having fun</li><li>✓ Build confidence</li><li>✓ Reward effort</li><li>✓ Be warm &amp; welcoming to parents</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Scream or yell</li><li>✗ Use offensive language</li><li>✗ Comment on officials' decisions</li><li>✗ Put too much pressure on children</li><li>✗ Ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake</li><li>✗ Use scare tactics</li></ul>

## OFFICIALS

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Always be fair, impartial &amp; consistent</li><li>✓ Encourage and praise good sporting behaviour</li><li>✓ Communicate clearly</li><li>✓ Place safety &amp; welfare of children above all else</li><li>✓ Ensure sufficient space for competition arenas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Play favourites</li><li>✗ Allow poor behaviour</li></ul>

# NOT MEETING EXPECTATION

## What happens when behaviour does not meet expectation...

### Minor/first offence

1. Unacceptable behaviour is called out by ANYONE and must be reported to the Area Referee.
2. The Area Referee will alert the Carnival Referee if the behaviour is deemed inappropriate.
3. 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 and a loss of championship points.

### Subsequent/major offence

1. Unacceptable behaviour is called out by ANYONE and must be reported to the Area Referee.
2. The Area Referee will alert the Carnival Referee if the behaviour is deemed inappropriate.
3. The team manager (from the offender's Club) is alerted and ensures:
  - a. The offenders immediate removal from beach carnival zone.
4. The complaint is lodged due to a breach of the Member Protection Policy
5. [SLSA Complaints resolution flow chart](#) followed for a resolution

In both cases stated above, details of the offense will be recorded by the Carnival Referee and will be reviewed by an objectively appointed Carnival Review Panel (appointed by the Surf Sports Advisory Panel Chair) in the week following the carnival. Any subsequent loss of points will be determined by the panel (3, 2 or 1 point deduction) and contribute to the "Sporting Environment" pillar as part of the "Junior State Championship" pennant.

Clubs will be made aware of the panels decision in the week following the carnival in question.

In the case such behaviours occur at Junior State Championships (Day 2 &/or 3), the above process will occur as soon as practically possible after the behaviour is reported to the Carnival Referee and the panel will meet and determine the outcome immediately, to hence come to a decision that may or may not impact the Junior State Championship overall points score.

If you witness **negative 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