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SOMERSET NETBALL CLUB AND ACADEMY (PTY) LTD

CODE OF CONDUCT

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SOMERSET NETBALL CLUB AND ACADEMY (PTY) LTD
REGISTRATION No: 2024/532439/07

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INTRODUCTION TO SOMERSET NETBALL CLUB & ACADEMY'S CODE OF CONDUCT

At Somerset Netball Club & Academy, we have developed a comprehensive Code of Conduct for all players, coaches, families, and supporters. This code is designed to promote fairness, ensure equal rights for all participants, and maintain the positive reputation of our club. Our overarching commitment is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for every individual involved in netball.

The Club aims to create an atmosphere where netball is a fun, engaging, and enriching experience. We believe that every participant—whether playing, coaching, or spectating—should conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the spirit of the game, both on and off the court. Any behaviour that contradicts this spirit is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to:

- Arguing with umpires or officials
- Disputing decisions
- Criticising individual or team actions during games or training

Such behaviour may result in a warning, penalty, suspension, or removal from the game as deemed necessary by the umpire.

Our Core Values

At Somerset Netball Club & Academy, we expect all members to reflect the following five core values in their actions and interactions:

- **Integrity:** Acting with honesty and strong moral principles.
- **Respect:** Treating others with dignity, valuing their opinions and perspectives.
- **Responsibility:** Taking ownership of your actions and contributions to the team and community.
- **Fairness:** Ensuring equal treatment and opportunities for all involved.
- **Safety:** Prioritising the physical and emotional well-being of every participant.

These values form the foundation of our Club's culture and are essential for maintaining a respectful and supportive environment for all involved.

The Codes of Conduct

To promote a safe, respectful, and positive experience, we have implemented specific Codes of Conduct for the following groups within our club

- **Players**
- **Coaches**
- **Parents/Spectators**

Each group is expected to adhere to these Codes and model appropriate behaviour at all times.

What We Ask of You

We ask all members of Somerset Netball Club & Academy to actively support our commitment to these values by following the guidelines below:

1. **Adhere to the Club's Code of Conduct:** All players, coaches, and supporters must abide by our Club's standards of behaviour.
2. **Address Concerns Appropriately:** If you observe any concerning behaviour, whether it involves our members or other clubs, we encourage you to speak directly with the individual involved (if safe to do so). Alternatively, raise the issue with your Team Manager or Coach so they can address it in a constructive manner.
3. **Report Inappropriate Behaviour:** If you are unable to resolve an issue directly, report the matter to the Club President or any Committee member. The safety and well-being of all participants are our top priority.
4. **In Case of Emergency or Safety Concerns:** If you believe there is an immediate risk to the safety of yourself or others, please contact the local authorities and notify a Club Committee member immediately.

By following these guidelines, you will contribute to creating a positive and supportive atmosphere for players, coaches, families, and supporters. Together, we can ensure Somerset Netball Club & Academy remains a place where all individuals can enjoy the sport in a safe and respectful environment.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Attendance

Regular attendance at all training sessions and games throughout the season is essential for both personal development and team cohesion. Absences are only excusable for valid reasons such as illness, injury, pre-scheduled appointments, or parental discretion. If you are unable to attend a session or match, it is your responsibility to have your parent or guardian notify the coach as soon as possible, providing a clear explanation for your absence.

2. Failure to Attend

Failing to attend training sessions without providing an adequate reason may result in consequences during the game. The coach may decide to substitute you in favor of a player who consistently attends training. This ensures fairness and maintains a high level of commitment within the team.

3. Punctuality and Preparedness

Punctuality is key. Arriving on time for both training and games demonstrates respect for the team and the coaching staff. Be prepared by bringing necessary equipment such as water bottles, wearing appropriate athletic clothing, and following the dress code (e.g., appropriate footwear, and attire). Hair should be tied back, and all jewelry should be removed for safety reasons.

4. Effort and Focus

Every training session and match is an opportunity to improve. Players are expected to give their full effort—100% focus, concentration, and determination in every session. Always strive to perform at your best, as your commitment will inspire your teammates and contribute to the overall success of the team.

5. Training and Participation

Participation in all drills, exercises, and warm-ups is mandatory unless you have notified the coach beforehand regarding illness or injury. If you sustain an injury during training, it is important to inform the coach immediately to prevent further harm. Consistent involvement in training sessions ensures that everyone progresses as a team and individually.

6. Respect for Others

Treat coaches, managers, committee members, and fellow players with respect at all times. Constructive feedback and open communication are encouraged, but always maintain a positive and respectful tone. Acknowledge and appreciate the contributions and efforts of everyone involved, whether they are on your team or on the opposing side.

7. Language and Behavior

It is crucial to maintain a respectful and courteous tone both on and off the court. Using offensive language or engaging in bullying behaviors such as peer exclusion, taunting, or mockery is strictly prohibited. A positive and supportive attitude fosters a more enjoyable and productive environment for all.

8. Fair Play

Fair play is the cornerstone of any sport. Commit to learning and understanding the rules of netball and play within the guidelines. If there are disagreements or confusion about the rules, players should approach the coach or captain for clarification during breaks or after the center pass, rather than engaging in any confrontations with the umpire or other players.

9. Self-Discipline and Sportsmanship

Players must maintain control over their actions at all times. Provoking or insulting other players, verbally abusing officials, or trying to intentionally distract or upset opponents is never acceptable. Demonstrating maturity and self-control is critical to maintaining a positive team environment and ensuring the integrity of the game.

10. Acknowledging Good Sportsmanship

It is important to show good sportsmanship by acknowledging and appreciating good plays, whether made by your teammates or the opposition. Applaud the skills of others, regardless of whether they are on your team or not. This promotes respect, mutual admiration, and a healthy competitive spirit within the sport.

11. Teamwork

Netball is a team sport, and collaboration is essential. Understand that you may sometimes be asked to play a position or role that does not align with your preferences or strengths. Embrace these challenges and contribute to the team's overall success. When each player works together selflessly, the team becomes stronger.

12. Passion for the Game

Love for the game is what fuels continued improvement and dedication. Be a leader on and off the court by encouraging your teammates, supporting them during challenges, and setting an example with your work ethic. Strive to bring out the best in both yourself and your team by fostering a culture of mutual support and passion for netball.

13. Club Participation and Engagement

Actively participate in any fundraising events, club functions, photo shoots, and meetings when requested. These activities are essential for building community and supporting the ongoing growth and success of the club.

14. Respect for Officials

The role of the umpire and officials is vital to the fair play of the game. Never argue with an official during the match. If you disagree with a decision, inform the captain, coach, or manager during a break or after the center pass. Follow the proper channels for clarification rather than engaging in disruptive behavior on the court.

15. Temper Control

Emotional control is crucial in maintaining a positive atmosphere on and off the court. Verbal abuse of officials, derogatory comments towards other players, or any form of provocation will not be tolerated. It is important to stay calm and respectful at all times, ensuring that the game remains enjoyable and respectful for all participants.

16. Team and Personal Effort

The effort you put in affects not only your own development but also the performance of the entire team. By working hard for both yourself and your teammates, you help create a more successful, cohesive unit. Your individual performance will grow alongside the team's achievements.

17. Fair Play and Safety

Players are expected to act in a fair and safe manner at all times. Prioritize the well-being of yourself and others by adhering to safety guidelines, following the rules, and avoiding reckless behavior. The integrity of the sport is maintained when all participants play with respect for both the game and each other.

18. Responsible Conduct

Conduct yourself responsibly with respect to language, temper, and punctuality. If you experience illness or injury that affects your ability to play, inform your coach honestly and promptly. This ensures that your well-being is taken into consideration, and adjustments can be made to your training or participation.

19. Alcohol and Intoxication

Arriving at the venue under the influence of alcohol or other substances is unacceptable. The consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited during junior matches, as it sets a poor example and can negatively impact performance and safety.

20. Respect for Diversity

Every participant deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion. Embrace diversity within the team and in the wider sporting community, ensuring that everyone feels valued and included.

21. Appreciation and Gratitude

At the end of each match, always thank the opposition and officials for their participation. Acknowledging the efforts of others, regardless of the outcome, helps to build a respectful and sportsmanlike environment.

22. Anti-Doping Compliance

Comply with all anti-doping policies. Engaging in any form of doping or using banned substances is strictly prohibited and goes against the principles of fair play. Players are responsible for maintaining their own health and fitness within the guidelines set by the sport's governing bodies.

23. Clarification and Communication

If clarification is needed on any rules, approach the officials with respect and follow the proper communication channels. Always ask questions in a polite manner and ensure you understand the rules, as this fosters good communication and respect for authority.

24. Respect for Volunteers

Volunteers, including coaches, umpires, scorers, and administrators, are the backbone of the sport. Without their dedication and hard work, there would be no competition. Show appreciation for their time and effort by acknowledging their contributions and supporting them in their roles.

25. No Discrimination or Bullying

Discrimination, bullying, or victimization of any kind will not be tolerated. All players should be treated equally and fairly. Ensure that all participants feel welcomed and supported, and do your part to create an inclusive, non-discriminatory environment.

26. Respect for Fellow Players' Development

Recognize and respect the talent, potential, and development of your fellow players. Support each other's growth and celebrate the achievements of your teammates. By fostering an environment of respect and encouragement, the team as a whole will thrive.

By adhering to these guidelines, players contribute positively to the team's success, the sport's integrity, and a respectful environment for all participants. Through dedication, respect, and collaboration, we foster not only athletic development but also personal growth

PARENT/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Encouragement and Support

It is essential that as a parent or spectator, you offer positive encouragement and consistent support to your child throughout their involvement in the sport. Understand that your child participates for their personal enjoyment, growth, and development. Their journey in netball is about fostering a love for the game and building valuable skills. Focus on praising their efforts, improvement, and perseverance rather than simply the outcomes or scores. This approach helps them develop a growth mindset, learning to embrace both successes and setbacks as part of their overall development.

2. Respect for Coaches and Officials

Parents and spectators must always show respect and support for the coach, umpire, and team manager. These individuals are integral to your child's growth in the sport and the overall functioning of the team. If you have concerns or suggestions, it is important to raise them in a respectful and constructive manner. Schedule a private meeting with the coach or a team coordinator to discuss any issues. Public criticism or negative comments about coaches or officials undermine their authority and can disrupt the team's dynamic. Additionally, showing appreciation for coaches and officials helps create a supportive and positive environment that encourages continued development for everyone involved.

3. Sideline Behavior and Coaching

While it is natural for parents to feel invested in their child's performance, it is important to refrain from coaching or providing instructions from the sidelines. Sideline coaching often creates confusion for players and undermines the coach's strategy. Coaches are trained to lead and guide the players, and sideline interference can hinder their ability to implement effective game plans. As a parent, your role is to support the entire team, cheer for every player, and allow the coach to do their job without additional pressure or distractions.

4. Respect for Umpires and Officials

Umpires play a critical role in ensuring fair play and safety during games. It is essential to respect their decisions at all times, regardless of whether you agree with a particular call. Negative comments, complaints, or judgmental remarks about an umpire's performance are disruptive and disrespectful. Remember, umpiring can be a difficult task, and many of our umpires are still learning. If you have concerns regarding a specific decision, address it in a calm, respectful manner through the coach or captain after the match, not during the game. Encouraging your child to respect the officials teaches them to value authority and maintain sportsmanship.

5. Photography and Video Recording Policy

In order to protect the privacy and safety of all participants, photography and video recording of games is prohibited unless prior consent has been obtained from all individuals involved. This includes players, parents, coaches, umpires, and spectators. Consent must be secured before the game begins to ensure that everyone's rights and privacy are respected. This policy helps maintain a safe and respectful environment for all participants.

6. No Negative Behavior or Language

It is important that parents and spectators refrain from using negative language or engaging in any form of intimidation toward coaches, players, umpires, or other spectators. Abusive comments, derogatory remarks, or bullying behavior not only harm individuals but also negatively impact the overall atmosphere of the game. If you have concerns or issues, address them privately with the coach or appropriate club personnel, rather than expressing frustration during the match. The goal should always be to foster a positive, supportive environment for all players and participants.

7. Communication with Umpires

At no point during the game should parents or spectators approach the umpire directly. Only the team captain, under the guidance of the coach, is authorized to speak with the umpire regarding any concerns. This ensures the integrity of the game is upheld and avoids any disruptions or misunderstandings. Umpires are trained to make impartial decisions, and parents' involvement in officiating disputes can create unnecessary tension. It is important to model respectful behavior and trust the process.

8. Promoting Positive Team Dynamics

Refrain from speaking negatively about your child's teammates or other players within the team. Negative comments can breed resentment, jealousy, and division, which can significantly harm team cohesion and morale. Every player is contributing to the team's growth, and it is important to foster a positive, supportive atmosphere. Encourage all players by highlighting their strengths, and promote a spirit of unity within the team. This creates a healthy and enjoyable environment where every player feels valued and supported.

9. Respect for Boundaries and Safety

It is vital to maintain proper boundaries during games. Parents and spectators must stay behind the designated yellow lines and not stand near the goalposts. This is for the safety of everyone involved, as it ensures that players have the necessary space to perform, and umpires can move freely and effectively. Respecting these physical boundaries helps maintain a safe and organized environment for all participants, minimizing distractions and potential accidents.

10. Volunteer and Support Responsibilities

When your child is selected as the team captain, a responsible adult, such as a parent or family friend over the age of 18, must be assigned to assist with the duties of scoring or timekeeping. The team manager will guide you through these responsibilities and provide assistance as needed. By helping with these tasks, you ensure that the game runs smoothly and that the team's organizational needs are met. Volunteer efforts, such as assisting with fundraising, scorekeeping, and game-day operations, are essential in keeping the club functioning efficiently and ensuring that every player has a positive experience.

11. Club Contributions and Fundraising

The club relies on fundraising efforts and sponsorships to keep participation costs as low as possible. Parents are encouraged to assist with these efforts when asked. Whether it's volunteering for BBQ duties, selling fundraising items, or helping organize events, your support is crucial in maintaining the club's success and ensuring that all players have access to the resources they need to thrive. Participation in these activities is also an opportunity to build community and foster teamwork among parents and volunteers.

12. Supporting Your Child's Autonomy

It is important to recognize that netball is your child's game, not yours. Your role as a parent is to provide support and encouragement, not to pressure them to perform or fulfill personal expectations. While you may have hopes and aspirations for your child, it's essential to remember that their participation is about their enjoyment, personal growth, and the lessons they learn along the way. Encouraging them to play at their own pace will help build confidence and a lifelong love for the sport.

13. Modeling Respectful Behavior

As a parent or spectator, you serve as a role model for your child. Your behavior and conduct, both on and off the court, have a profound impact on how your child perceives the game and interacts with others. By demonstrating respectful behavior, such as applauding good plays from both teams and showing appreciation for all participants, you instill positive values in your child. Your actions teach them the importance of good sportsmanship, respect, and kindness in all aspects of life.

14. Constructive Feedback and Support

After the game, it's essential to offer your child constructive feedback that focuses on their efforts rather than the result of the game. Refrain from criticizing or ridiculing their performance. Positive reinforcement helps children understand that the process of improvement is as important as the outcome. When children know they have your support, they are more likely to stay motivated and excited to continue playing.

15. Intoxication and Alcohol Policy

The club has a strict policy regarding the consumption of alcohol at junior matches. Parents and spectators are prohibited from arriving intoxicated or consuming alcohol during matches. This ensures that the environment remains safe, family-friendly, and focused on the well-being of all participants.

16. Respect for All Participants

It is essential to treat all participants in the game—players, coaches, officials, and spectators—with the utmost respect. This includes respecting their gender, abilities, cultural backgrounds, and personal beliefs. By fostering an inclusive, respectful environment, you help ensure that everyone feels welcome and valued, promoting a positive experience for all involved in the sport.

By following this code of conduct, parents and spectators contribute to the creation of a respectful, enjoyable, and supportive environment for all participants. Your role in encouraging positive behaviors and respecting others' roles within the sport is key to your child's experience and the overall success of the team. Your actions not only shape your child's sporting experience but also set the tone for the wider community's approach to sportsmanship and respect

COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Commitment to Player Development

As a coach, your primary responsibility is the growth, development, and well-being of each player on your team. You should foster a positive and supportive environment where all players feel valued, respected, and motivated to reach their full potential. Encourage players to focus on personal growth, teamwork, and enjoyment of the sport, rather than solely on outcomes or results.

2. Respect for Players

Treat each player with respect, dignity, and fairness, regardless of their skill level, background, or personal circumstances. Ensure that each player is provided with equal opportunities to participate and develop, and avoid favoritism. Show genuine interest in the individual needs and goals of each player, and offer tailored feedback that fosters their self-confidence and skills.

3. Leadership and Integrity

Lead by example, demonstrating integrity, responsibility, and professionalism both on and off the court. Your actions should reflect the values of honesty, fairness, and good sportsmanship. Be a role model for your players by maintaining high standards of conduct and respect for others. Your behavior should set the tone for a positive and supportive environment for both players and other coaches.

4. Communication

Maintain open, clear, and consistent communication with players, parents, and other coaching staff. Ensure that all involved parties are aware of the team's objectives, expectations, and progress. Be receptive to feedback and willing to engage in constructive discussions. Clear communication helps build trust and ensures that everyone is aligned with the team's goals.

5. Player Safety and Welfare

Prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of all players under your guidance. Make sure that the physical and emotional needs of the players are met, and provide a safe environment for training and competition. Take steps to prevent injuries by ensuring proper training techniques, warm-up and cool-down routines, and that all safety protocols are followed. Be aware of players' mental and emotional states and address any issues that may arise with sensitivity and care.

6. Equal Opportunities

As a coach, promote inclusivity and equal opportunities for all players. Avoid discrimination based on gender, age, race, religion, or disability. Foster an environment where diversity is celebrated and where all players feel welcome and supported. Ensure that all players receive fair and equal access to playing time, training, and development opportunities.

7. Constructive Feedback

Provide feedback to players in a constructive and positive manner. Critique performance based on behavior and effort, not on personal characteristics. Always aim to build players up, helping them learn from mistakes and recognize areas for improvement without discouraging them. Encourage a growth mindset where players are motivated to improve their skills and enjoy the process of learning.

8. Respect for Officials and Other Coaches

Demonstrate respect for all officials, including umpires and referees, regardless of the outcome of a game. Never engage in arguments or negative behavior toward officials, as this undermines the spirit of fair play. Additionally, respect other coaches and their roles within the sport. If disagreements arise, address them in a professional and respectful manner, focusing on solutions and improvements.

9. Promotion of Sportsmanship

Encourage and model good sportsmanship at all times. Reinforce the importance of playing fair, respecting opponents, and accepting both wins and losses gracefully. Teach your players to respect the decisions of officials and to support their teammates and opponents alike. Emphasize that the values of teamwork, respect, and dedication are far more important than winning at any cost.

10. Continuous Learning and Development

Commit to your own professional development as a coach. Continuously seek to improve your knowledge of the game, coaching techniques, and leadership skills. Attend coaching courses, workshops, and stay updated on best practices in coaching and player development. By doing so, you set a positive example for your players and improve your ability to help them reach their full potential.

11. Teamwork and Collaboration

Foster a team-oriented environment where collaboration and mutual support are emphasized. Work closely with assistant coaches, managers, and other staff to ensure the smooth running of practices and competitions. Encourage players to support one another, build trust, and understand the importance of working together toward common goals.

12. Maintain a Professional Relationship with Players

Establish and maintain a professional relationship with all players and their families. While it is important to build strong relationships based on trust and respect, coaches must also set appropriate boundaries to ensure a safe and healthy coaching environment. Be mindful of your interactions and ensure they are always professional and focused on the player's development and well-being.

13. Respect for the Sport and Club Values

Adhere to the rules, regulations, and ethos of the sport, the club, and the governing bodies. Your actions should reflect the values and standards set by these organizations. Ensure that your coaching methods are aligned with the philosophy and goals of the club, promoting a culture of respect, excellence, and community.

14. Encouraging Fun and Enjoyment

Remember that at its core, netball is a sport for enjoyment. Encourage your players to have fun, celebrate their achievements, and develop a passion for the game. Focus on creating a positive and enjoyable experience that inspires a love for the sport, helping players develop not only their skills but also a lifelong appreciation for netball.

15. Accountability and Transparency

Hold yourself accountable for your actions and decisions as a coach. If mistakes are made, take responsibility and work to correct them. Be transparent in your communication with players, parents, and club officials. This openness fosters trust and respect and ensures a healthy and professional coaching environment.

By adhering to this code of conduct, coaches will create a positive, professional, and enjoyable environment that nurtures player development, fosters teamwork, and promotes respect for the sport, officials, and all participants. Your role as a coach is critical in shaping both the athletic and personal development of the players in your care