

Sport CODE OF CONDUCT

Every week thousands of kids and adults around New Zealand enjoy their sport and recreation in a fun and supportive environment. At Kapakapanui School this is certainly the case, there are many children who play sports for our school.

We set high standards of behaviour on and off the field, and we're all about showing respect for others and acting responsibly. We want our players, coaches and spectators to 'Give it heaps and not get ugly!'

The following **CODE of CONDUCT** has been developed along the guidelines set by Sport New Zealand.

Sport NZ through research have developed an evidence-based philosophy that underpins Sport NZ's overall approach to youth sport. **This is called “Balance is Better”.**

“*Balance is Better*” is an evidence-based approach. The focus of the philosophy is on why young people play sports – to have fun, be challenged, develop and improve, be part of a team or group, and enjoy time with friends.

There are three myths in youth sport that have been identified through research and are supported by evidence. The “*Balance is Better*” philosophy pushes back against these myths to stress that:

1. Childhood success is not a reliable predictor of future success;
2. Identifying athletes early and specialising early is taking its toll on young people; and
3. A focus on winning rather than development is a problem for young people, because it can have unintended consequences on their wellbeing and affect their motivation to take part

At Kapakapanui School we are committed to this approach and want our children to have positive experiences when playing sports. [Click here to read additional information from Sport NZ](#)

Please take the time to read and discuss the following **CODE of CONDUCT** as a family.

Coaches

I will:

- Remember that players participate for enjoyment and winning is only part of the fun
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making a mistake or not winning
- Be reasonable in my demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm
- Operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach my players to do the same
- Ensure that the time players spend with me is a positive experience. All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities
- Avoid overplaying the talented players and understand that the average players need and deserve equal time. Every player is to play at least half a game.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport including opponents, referees, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and spectators. I will encourage my players to do the same
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background

I will not:

- Use bad language nor will I harass players, officials, spectators or other coaches

Parents and Spectators

I will:

- Encourage my child to play within the rules and respect officials' and coaches' decisions
- Teach my child to respect the efforts of their opponents
- Remember that children learn best by example, so I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents
- Give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort
- Inform the coach if my child cannot play and be on time for games and practices
- Thank the coaches, officials and other volunteers who give their time to conduct the event for my child
- Help when asked by a coach or official
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.

I will not:

- Pressure children in any way – I know that this is their game not mine
- Use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators or ridicule my child's performance

Players

I will:

- Always play by the rules
- Never argue with an official. If I disagree with a decision I will inform the captain or coach during a break or after the competition
- Control my temper. I understand that verbal abuse of officials and other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted behaviour in any sport
- Work equally hard for myself and my team
- Be a good sport and applaud all good plays whether they are made by my team or the opposition
- Treat all players in my sport as I like to be treated. I will not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor
- Cooperate with my coach, team-mates and opponents
- Wear the correct uniform, shin pads, mouth guards, no jewellery, nails cut (netball/basketball) etc
- Turn up for games and practices on time
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Participate for my own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Thank the opposition and officials at the end of the game

