

# Resource 24: Sample spectator behaviour policy

## Expectations about behaviour are met: Welcome

The following sample policy is to assist you to write your own SSA-specific policy and is provided for guidance only. Its relevance to your association and any flow-on implications for your affiliated clubs need to be considered and it must be adapted to reflect your SSA's size, structure, resources and needs. You will need to consider if the policy will apply to all SSA-sanctioned games and events or only specified games (e.g. junior championships).

## <SSA> spectator behaviour policy

### 1. Purpose

Spectator behaviour at sporting events has become an increasingly topical issue, attracting both media interest and community concern. The damage that inappropriate spectator behaviour can cause to sport is too great for the issue to be ignored. Our association has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for all those involved in the conduct of <sport>. This includes taking steps to ensure everyone is protected from physical and emotional harm that may arise as a result of the inappropriate behaviour of others. This policy is one step to reduce the likelihood of inappropriate behaviour occurring.

### 2. Policy coverage

This policy covers all <SSA> areas of authority and applies to everyone involved in the activities of <SSA> including committee and Board members, staff, affiliated club members, volunteers, players, coaches, officials, administrators, sponsors, parents and spectators.

### 3. Policy statement

<SSA> is committed to providing a safe environment for participation. Angry, aggressive or other inappropriate behaviour, by members, their families and friends and other sporting personnel while attending a <SSA> sanctioned game or event, including junior and senior state championships, will not be tolerated.

### 4. <SSA> responsibilities

The association will:

- provide staff, members, players, coaches, officials, parents and, where possible, other spectators with codes of behaviour and make clear what is expected and the consequences of non-compliance
- where possible, bind non-members by prominently displaying conditions of entry and by requiring parents to abide by club and association rules (e.g. by making parents associate members, signing code of conduct or registration forms)
- reinforce messages of fair and respectful behaviour by displaying signage, posters, web messages and through other forms of communication
- encourage our coaches and officials to complete training to develop their skills and confidence
- ban bringing alcohol or drinking alcohol at games or events
- consult with our local police and seek their support and advice on how to handle issues with inappropriate behaviour by spectators prior to, at or after a game
- encourage the reporting of incidents and investigate inappropriate behaviours as outlined in this policy and take disciplinary or whatever other actions are deemed necessary.

### 5. Individual responsibilities

All staff, members, players, coaches, officials, parents and other spectators must abide by our association's codes of behaviour and conduct and specifically refrain from:

- using bad language
- harassing or ridiculing players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- making racist, religious, homophobic, sexist or other inappropriate comments to players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- any threatening behaviour or physical altercation between spectators and players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- putting undue pressure on children, berating them or putting down their performance
- arriving drunk or drinking at a game or event.

We also ask people to:

- speak with the parent or spectator, if it feels safe, and ask them to stop the inappropriate behaviour. If there is a ground official, club or SSA official present at the game, ask for their assistance.
- report any inappropriate spectator behaviour to a club, SSA or venue/facility official.
- Call the police or a club or SSA official if you are concerned for your safety or the safety of others.

## 6. Non-compliance

- If staff, members, players, coaches, officials, parents and other spectators turn up or drink alcohol at club or <SSA> sanctioned games and events, they will be asked to leave. Ongoing occurrences of intoxication will be in breach of codes of behaviour and can result in disciplinary action (e.g. suspension or termination of membership or position).
- Parents found to have behaved inappropriately and who are associate members or have agreed to abide by our association's code of conduct and this policy may face disciplinary action as outlined in our member protection policy.
- Others who behave inappropriately at club or <SSA> sanctioned games and events and who are bound by this policy or our association's code of conduct may be asked to leave the game or event and may face disciplinary action as outlined in our member protection policy.

## 7. Related policies

This spectator behaviour policy should be read in conjunction with our member protection policy and code of behaviour.

## 8. Review, additions or amendments

This policy will be regularly evaluated and revised through consultation to maintain continuous improvement in our governance, structure, programs, services and facilities. In addition to the annual review of this policy, recommendations for changes to the policy may be submitted to the Board for consideration at any time. In the event that changes are accepted the policy will be updated, dated and circulated to all stakeholders via the webpage and other methods deemed appropriate.

**Adopted by the Board:** <date>

**Reviewed and updated:** <date>

**Scheduled review:** <date>

Developed in collaboration

Collaboration leader: \_\_\_\_\_ :

