



Code of Conduct for Spectators at Sports Fixtures

At Worth School, we strongly encourage and greatly appreciate support for our sports teams from family and friends. The school endeavours to be hospitable to parents and visitors. We do ask however, that the following guidelines are observed by spectators and supporters at all times:

- To remember that the fundamental purpose of school sport is that of pupils' enjoyment and development
- To be aware that one key principle is to teach the pupils the value of sportsmanship and fair play, and encourage them to learn the rules/laws of the sport
- To remember that young people learn by example. Spectators and supporters should applaud good play and reserve their judgement on poor play. Pupils should never be ridiculed or berated for making a mistake or for losing a game
- To never publicly question a coach's, referee's or umpire's judgement, honesty or integrity, and recognise their authority on the field
- To never use offensive language, or threaten players, coaches, referees, umpires or other spectators
- To respect and refrain from encroaching on the playing area (normally marked by a white line on the playing surface)
- To respect the opposition players and coaches
- To communicate any concerns or issues through the proper channels at an appropriate time, the usual means of doing so being to communicate privately with the school's Director of Sport after the conclusion of a given fixture.

Parents as role models

Parents and guardians have a responsibility to help make sure their child gets the most out of his or her playing experience. Parental support should always include positive reinforcement of both your child's performance and of their efforts. This is essential at an early age, to encourage strong self-esteem and a healthy development in general. Parents should aim to be positive role models, including the display of sportsmanship and the notion of fair play and by avoiding negativity of any kind. Parents should encourage children to play according to the rules at all times.



Parent - Sports Staff Alliance

The entire sports staff is grateful for the support, encouragement and assistance many parents provide, often driving long distances and rearranging busy schedules to support teams on a regular basis. It is essential however that all parents and guardians agree to support their respective coach's decisions (even in the event that they do not fully agree with them) and do not act to undermine their efforts.

In particular, it is essential that parents refrain from airing any grievances relating to any aspect of the game, the players, the coach or officials, whilst in the presence of our pupils or our visitors. Coaching staff are open to discussion and would always wish for the speedy resolution of any issues or concerns but this process must take place in the correct manner and at the correct time. All parent - coach dialogue should be non-argumentative and constructive in its content.

The individual team coach's judgement on issues such as selection must be accepted as final. However well you know your son or daughter, you cannot share the same overview of the whole team. The coach is best-suited and qualified to take all factors into consideration and make the right decisions for the team as a whole.

Parent to Parent respect

Parents and spectators have a responsibility to other parents and spectators. Competition and taunting between parents is never acceptable, and no parent/spectator should ever feel embarrassed or disappointed by their team or child's performance. Good play should always be applauded, and disappointments should always be consoled. Remember that children learn best by example and praise should be bestowed on the efforts of both teams.

Your children play sport for their enjoyment, which in turn fosters a feeling of self-worth/respect. Please help them in this endeavour by focusing on your child's efforts and personal achievements rather than purely on whether they win or lose.

The development of the whole person is seen as extremely important at Worth, so this code of conduct is aimed at supporting that development, while preserving the spirit of hospitality within the community as a whole.