

Code of Conduct for Spectators



SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Players are the most important people in sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game, but not winning at any costs, because Fair Play and respect for all others in the game is equally important.

Parents and spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in Sport. All children partake in sport because they first and foremost enjoy sport– it is fun. But, however good a child becomes at sport, it is important to remember that positive encouragement will contribute to:

- Children enjoying sport.
- A sense of personal achievement.
- High self – esteem.
- Improving the child's skills and techniques.

A parents / spectator's expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards other players, match officials, managers and spectators.

All parents / spectators at London Borough of Richmond sports events are expected:

- Not to use foul or abusive language in any circumstances.
- To always be positive and encouraging towards all players from both teams (not just their own child or the most talented), in a sensible and constructive manner.
- To avoid yelling at or ridiculing a child for making a mistake.
- To remember that children take part in sport for their own enjoyment, not for your own entertainment.
- To show respect for the Match Officials.
- To accept defeat sensibly and with dignity and to encourage the children to do the same.
- To avoid coaching the children during the game.
- To accept the decisions and instructions of the Coach and other Team Officials – remember, they are volunteers who give up their time and resources to provide the opportunity for your children.
- To abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the chosen sport.
- To support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's football and to promote this Code of Conduct amongst other Parents and Spectators.

REMEMBER

- **CHILDREN LEARN BEST BY EXAMPLE**
- **SHOW RESPECT FOR OTHERS**
- **ENCOURAGE AND BE SUPPORTIVE**
- **BE DIGNIFIED IN DEFEAT**
- **HONEST EFFORT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN VICTORY**