

OLDHAM HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL

CONDUCT IN SCHOOL SPORT

This policy is applicable from EYFS through to year 13

Principles

- It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that high standards of conduct are encouraged in school sport.
- The Principal and Director of Physical Education will work together to this end.
- Guidelines giving codes of behaviour for everyone involved in school sport will be published and distributed.

The main practical points of issue are

- There should be no foul or abusive language in any arena of school sport, internal or external.
- Teams should never seek to claim unfair advantage by verbal abuse or any other means.
- Open criticism of, or dissent from, refereeing decisions by those playing or watching is unacceptable.
- Any pupil who is in breach of the above guidelines will be formally warned - with further sanctions applied when appropriate, including suspension from matches.
- The school has a responsibility for the conduct of every aspect of its sport - including the behaviour of supporters (pupils, parents and other adults alike).
- Staff in charge of individual teams should assume responsibility for the conduct of their teams and supporters and should be conscious of their role as exemplars to both.

Guidelines for parents – supporting their child and the school

- Teachers and coaches give their time and energy to the development of all pupils in the team, including your child. Parents are asked to give all pupils their support.
- Team selection is not always easy. Under normal circumstances reserves selected for a fixture will play some part in the game. However, depending on the nature of the competition there are some circumstances when reserves may not get on the field of play. Please support staff in their decisions.
- The pupils will perform much better in a relaxed atmosphere and are much more likely to enjoy the game.
- The pupils will learn best by example. Parents should applaud good play by both teams.
- Winning and losing are essential aspects of a young child's education and parents should step back from the competitive nature of the game in order to allow their child to develop.
- Parents should understand that sport can evoke strong emotions in their children and be prepared to talk to them about these feelings.
- Parents should encourage their child to play by the rules at all times.
- The decisions made by the official(s) should be respected and should not be questioned publicly. Parents should never try to influence the result of a game or interfere in the running of it.
- Parents are welcome to contribute by giving positive encouragement, applauding where possible all the pupils in the team; however, they should never ridicule or shout at any team member for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Parents are asked to help the school to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities – both on and off the field.

Guidelines for players

- Try to play for enjoyment not just to please your parents or coach.
- Try your best to understand the rules and play by them.
- Always accept decisions made by the officials.
- Appreciate that team selection can be difficult for your teachers and coaches; they will make the best decision for your team. Under normal circumstances reserves selected for a fixture will play some part of the game. However, depending on the nature of the competition there are some circumstances when reserves may not get on the field of play.
- Control your temper and avoid petulant behaviour.
- Be a good sport and try to appreciate good play from both teams.

- Remember that you are an individual playing in a team game and that it is the team that is important.
- Don't try to gain unfair advantage through gamesmanship. Treat your opponents as you would like to be treated yourself.
- Show your appreciation at the end of a game by shaking your opponents' hands and thanking the referee.
- Try to remember that the member of staff in charge of your team gives up his / her own time to do this and that you should give him / her your full cooperation at all times. This involves such things as signing off promptly, attending training sessions regularly and behaving impeccably in matches.

Guidelines for teachers and coaches

- Try to be reasonable in your demands of the pupils' time, energy and enthusiasm. They may have many other interests.
- Remember that the pupils are playing for enjoyment, and winning is only part of this. Individuals should not be ridiculed or berated for making mistakes or losing matches.
- Try to maintain high standards of coaching and discipline and show understanding of the pupils' growth and development.
- Try to group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity where appropriate. The length of matches and practices should also take these things into account.
- An equal amount of time should be spent both on the talented and on the less talented pupils. All pupils appreciate praise and will respond to it.
- Equipment should meet all safety standards and should be appropriate to the age and ability of the players involved.
- Always insist that the rules of the game are adhered to and that respect is shown to the opposition.
- Set a good example yourself by never questioning in public the decisions of the officials.
- Try to be friendly and respectful to the members of staff of the opposing team.

Conduct in School Sport policy reviewed: March 2023

Next Review Due: March 2025