



CLUB RESPECT TIPS FOR **THE PARENT**

In a sports club, the parent is a role model that shows kids the way and to teach them to observe life's boundary lines.

You can choose how this power will impact people – for good or for bad.

Sport can be a wonderful teacher of valuable life lessons; humility, compassion, persistence, teamwork and collaboration. Children deserve to be permitted and encouraged to experience these life lessons. You know when a club isn't diligent about safeguarding this ethos. This is the sort of club where abusive parents are not sanctioned. Where coaches treat kids unfairly. Parents feel unable to raise issues about what they see is going wrong.

As a parent, you can play a huge role in ensuring your club is one where all kids' sporting experiences are positive and life-affirming. It requires you to be on the alert, to do your own bit in operating by your club's Code of Conduct and to be prepared to call out bad behaviours in a civil and constructive way.

As a parent you can guide kids towards positive behaviours free of entitlement, abuse and violence.

The following page is an excerpt of practical tips from the Club Respect website. Find more videos, how-tos and other resources for you and your club:

LEARN MORE clubrespect.org.au



YOU NEED TO BE CONFIDENT THAT YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

- Check out the club values before you commit to a club.
- If you have doubt, don't hesitate to seek out a club that looks to have its act together more than this one.
- Ask yourself whether this club feels like a place of fun, enjoyment, exercise, personal development and growth, team work and respectful behaviour.
- Once you've found the right club for your child(ren), speak up if you feel that more work can be done on the club's values.



RESPECT WHAT THE COACH, OR OTHER CLUB PEOPLE, ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE AND CONSTRUCTIVELY SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR ENDEAVOURS.

- Be genuinely welcoming and inclusive in your attitude to those around you. Talk with people, listen closely to what they have to say, show you care, and pay them respect.
- Understand that club people have methods for working with children and ensuring that they get the most out of their experience. It can be confusing if parents contradict their coach's instruction. If you want to raise something with your child's coach, make an appointment with them at an appropriate time.



AS A PARENT, YOU WILL BE MIXING WITH OTHERS. WHILE IT CAN BE TRYING SOMETIMES, YOU'LL ALWAYS GET THE BEST RESULTS IF YOU'RE OPEN, CIVIL AND POLITE.

- Loose talk, gossip and white-anting have no place in a club seeking to be a place of respect and regard.
- If you have any issues or concerns, communicate them with the relevant people at the appropriate time – always in a spirit of co-operation and with a desire to find solutions.



AS A PARENT, YOU'RE A KEY DRIVER IN CREATING A COMMUNITY THAT LOOKS AFTER ITS PEOPLE.

- Be an advocate for the club's measures of success over winning at all costs.
- Nothing much is gained when parents simply drop their kids off at the club. Make an effort to go to club events when you can, to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts around the club in achieving these measures of success.



YOU MAKE OR BREAK YOUR CHILD'S, AND OTHER CHILDREN'S, SPORTS EXPERIENCE.

- Like it or not, they're all observing you and soaking up the vibe of each of the parents; the good, the bad and the ugly.
- Seize your responsibility and opportunity to promote the positive at all times and in all situations.



PARENTS ARE THE ADULTS HERE. SET THE STANDARD.

- Make civility, grace and good humour your hallmarks.
- Be prepared to commend good play on both sides and, importantly, accept the referee's judgement whether you agree or not.
- If you see bullying, name calling, or angry outbursts by others, call it out. Either, by yourself in a calm, safe and respectful way or by reporting the behaviour to a club official. If your club has a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO), they're the one to go to.



SUPPORT EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT TO HAVE FUN AND PARTICIPATE – NOT JUST YOUR OWN.

- Keep an eye out for instances of injustice – small and large.
- Be willing to work alongside others in any role around the club, challenging any stereotypes that might still linger in your club.
- Go out of your way to embrace and welcome people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.
- Accept the decision of the coach not to select your child on every occasion.
- Make sure that the clubs assets and resources are shared equally.