

YMCA Geelong-Code of Conduct for Parents, Athletes, Coaches, Spectators and Officials Policy

OFFICE USE ONLY

Policy Number	Date Approved	Date Last Amended	Status
YG 166-O	17/05/2025	17/05/2025	APPROVED

1. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS, COACHES, SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPANTS POLICY

2. INTRODUCTION

The YMCA Geelong has Code of Conducts in place to ensure Parents, Coaches, Spectators and Participant and Club members;

- Understand the standards of conduct required at all YMCA Geelong programs
- This Code of Conduct sets the standard of behavior for everyone involved in our gymnastics club, Basketball Club and Judo Club and any other sports program offer from time to time—athletes, coaches, parents, volunteers, and staff. It is designed to promote safety, respect, integrity, and pride in our community, both in and out of the gym/ court/dojo, including online spaces.

3. POLICY

3.1 Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

- Encourage and support your child positively—focus on effort and growth
- Respect coaches' decisions and never interfere with training.
- Address concerns respectfully and privately with club staff.
- Ensure your child attends regularly and is picked up on time.
- Refrain from posting negative or inappropriate comments about the club or its members online.
- Support a healthy balance between gymnastics, school, and other activities.
- Promote the values of respect, integrity, and community.
- Remember that most people play sport for enjoyment.
- Encourage children to participate in sport, do not force them.
- Focus on your child's individual efforts, not on whether they win or not.
- Never ridicule a child for making a mistake.
- Always encourage your child to respect their coach and other officials.
- Remember that children learn best by example.
- Appreciate good performances and treat others with respect.
- Respect the decisions made by coaches and judges and use appropriate methods of expressing concern.
- Show appreciation for all coaches, judges and administrators - without

- them your child could not participate.
- Ensure you know the rules of the gym and teach them to your child.

PARENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GUIDELINES

We call on all parents associated with our program to:

- Observe our organisations guidelines for parents (see below)
- When necessary, politely and respectfully remind others of their obligations under these guidelines
- In the event of serious or ongoing breaches of these guidelines by another person, to report the matter to our program coordinator so that appropriate action can be taken.

Your and other children and young people's participation in the program is for their enjoyment. As parents your role is to support these outcomes by:

- Encouraging your child's participation in a positive and respectful manner
- Advising our program coordinator of any special needs that your child may have, or develop, during the course of the program (for example, they may suffer from asthma or allergies, or have hearing difficulties) so that we can assist in their safe participation of the program.
- Engaging with the mentors positively, not criticising the mentor in the presence of your child, and reporting any concerns to our program coordinator.
- Ensuring that your child is picked up time at the conclusion of a program session
- Arranging with our program coordinator prior to a session if your child is to be picked up by a person unknown to the program- and completing an authorisation form
- Advising our coordinator if your child is unable to attend the program, or is no longer interested in participating in the program
- Reporting any concerns to our program coordinator and not directly to a mentor, other child or parent involved in the program
- Not requesting contact with the mentor outside the mentoring program or venue
- Not asking the mentor to provide any other support outside the boundaries of our mentoring program, such as asking for babysitting services or lifts home for your child
- Not engaging in behaviour that discriminates against any other person on the basis of gender, ability, race, language, religion, politics or national or ethnic origin
- Engaging with other participants in a positive and respectful manner and not engaging in behaviour designed to belittle, insult or intimidate others
- Not engaging in, or threatening to engage in, violent or physical confrontations with any other person
- Not encouraging or inciting your child to commit violent acts or to breach program rules
- Advising our program coordinator of any changes in contact information for use in the event of an emergency.

Serious or ongoing breaches of these guidelines are not tolerated. Parents who breach our guidelines may:

- Be asked to leave the program
- Provided with advice and/or warning to encourage positive participation
- Jeopardise their future participation in this program

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3.2 Code of Conduct for Athletes/ Participants

- Compete by the rules.
- Never argue with officials. If you require clarification have your coach, make an enquiry.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your club (team).
- Be a good sport; applaud good performances by your team mates and opposition alike.
- Show respect to and acknowledge your opposition and officials. (E.g. shake hands and wish other athletes' good luck, thank your coach and the officials).
- Co-operate with your coach, team mates and opponents.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not to please others, Participate with effort, focus, and a positive attitude.
- Arrive on time, in proper attire, ready to train
- Practice good sportsmanship—celebrate wins humbly and handle losses gracefully.
- Treat the gym, locker rooms, and common areas with care.
- Be fair- no verbal abuse of officials, nastiness or vilification.
- Behave respectfully online: No bullying, hate speech, or inappropriate posts.
- Never post or share anything that could damage the reputation of the club, its members, or affiliated organizations (e.g., the Y).
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Stay free from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco while representing the club.

3.3 Code of Conduct for Spectators

- People are not playing sport for the entertainment of spectators nor are many of them professionals. You should be watching sport for your own enjoyment and to show support for those playing. Help the players to enjoy their game. Applaud good performances from each team.
- Congratulate all players regardless of the outcome.
- Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- Referees and officials have a difficult task to perform. You would not have a game to enjoy without them. They are there to enforce the rules of play but they cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behavior. Spectators who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, accept it graciously – you cannot change it.
- Always be positive in your support for players.
- Never ridicule or shout at a player, particularly a young player for making a mistake during competition. Positive support for players will offer encouragement to them and most likely spur them to better things on the court.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form.
- Never encourage players to engage in violence or engage in it yourself.

- Violence has no place in sport and strong action should be taken to discourage it.
- Respect your team's opponents, officials and spectators.
- Without your team's opponents, there would be no game. Their supporters are there to enjoy the game as much as you are. Light-hearted banter with an opposing spectator can add a further element of fun to a game. Conversely, nasty or inappropriate behavior or remarks will seriously detract from it.
- Encourage players to obey the rules and to accept decisions of officials.
- Often players can get carried away when spectators become enthusiastic or heated over an issue. This can be a positive but it can also be negative when it involves such behavior as disputing decisions. Always encourage players to obey the rules and do not dispute referees' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Anti-social behavior such as foul or abusive language has no place in sport at a YMCA. If others engage in it, just ignore them – they will soon tire of it if they get no reaction. Alternatively, ask them politely to desist. If it continues and it is serious, bring it to the attention of an official.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion or other factor irrelevant to the game, all persons connected with basketball are entitled to equal treatment and respect. Avoid any remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory. Sometimes even a joke may give offence. Even if a person refers to themselves with a particular label,
- it should not be taken as an invitation for you to do so. Using discretion is imperative and it is better to err on the side of caution.
- Keep children in your care under control.
- YMCA Sports encourages you to bring your children to games. However, there can be dangers to them in a basketball stadium. They can also constitute a danger to players. You should ensure that children with you are supervised by an adult.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use. Do not encourage players to engage in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or "slam dunking". Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues.

3.4 Code of conduct for Coaches

- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and results are only one part of that fun.
- Give all gymnasts your best, regardless of their aptitude.
- Create opportunities for gymnasts to learn appropriate sportsmanship as well as basic skills.
- Give priority to fun activities and skill development over highly structured competition.
- Keep up-to-date with coaching practices and qualifications including the principles of physical and mental growth and development
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.

- Help young gymnasts to understand that obeying the rules is their responsibility.
- Encourage young people to participate in administration, coaching and judging in addition to their gymnastics.
- Operate within spirit of the rules and teach your gymnasts to do the same.
- Ensure that any physical contact with a gymnast is appropriate to the situation and necessary for skill development and safety.
- Implement relevant sport safety policies and practices.
- Implement policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs
- Listen to your gymnasts and ensure that the time they spend with you is a positive experience
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

3.5 Code of Conduct for Judges

- Be true to the judge's oath.
- Apply rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of young people and to make participation more fun.
- Compliment and encourage all gymnasts, you are a role model and a source of gymnast's confidence building.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous.
- Condemn unsporting behavior and promote respect for all.
- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- Implement policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- Ensure the equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all gymnasts.
Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

3.6 Code of Conduct for Officials and Umpires

- Interpret rules and regulations fairly and to match the skill level and the needs of the participants.
- Whilst many requirements of rules are for the safety of those involved in basketball and should never be compromised, others allow flexibility.
- The age and skills level of the players involved should be considered when interpreting rules. As long as you are consistent in interpreting rules and communicate before a game how you intend to interpret the rule, players and the game should benefit. Use common sense to ensure that the "spirit of the game" is not lost by overcalling technical violations
- Compliment both teams on their efforts.

- You should make an effort to congratulate both sides at the end of a game, not just the winning side. If there has been a problem during the game, by all means raise it, but do so in a constructive manner so that players may learn from your experience and guidance.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Objectivity is the single most important characteristic of a good official.
- It can sometimes be tempting to be easier –or harder, so that you appear to be objective - on a team that you have a connection with. It is also easy to be harder on their opponents or on a team which you believe is not playing the game in the proper spirit or with which you may have had a bad experience in the past. You must resist this temptation. Even when you call an infraction, you must do so in a courteous manner.
- Promote fair play and appropriate sporting behavior.
- Use every opportunity you have to communicate the message that sport is about fair play, not to be marred by poor behavior.
- Condemn the deliberate foul as being unsportsmanlike. If you see an act of good sportsmanship, applaud it.
- Publicly encourage rule changes.
- Officials are in a unique position to judge how rules work and their effect on the game. You should use that position to promote change where you can see a positive benefit to participants' enjoyment of the game from a change.
- Ensure that both on and off the court your behavior is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Just as you are entitled to the respect of players, they are entitled to expect that you will act honestly and with integrity. Lead by example -actions speak louder than words. If your standards are down, players and others involved in the sport will see that as a signal that it is acceptable for them to lower their standards.
- Keep your knowledge current.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children. Always attend training programs when they are available, to ensure that your knowledge is current and that your skills are always improving. Read all information that is available to make sure that you don't miss innovations such as rule changes.
- Help the education process in the game.
- Help players learn to play the game. Make sure that players understand rule infractions. Sometimes players dispute decisions because they do not understand the rules correctly. If you perceive that a player hasn't understood a ruling, take the time when it is convenient to explain it to them. If there is a team problem of understanding, approach the coach and outline what the problem is and why it is a problem. Don't feel defensive about explaining your decisions. You are the expert on the court and players are entitled to your constructive guidance.
- Always present yourself in a way which encourages others to respect you and your role. In both your demeanor and appearance, you should lead by example.
- Always wear the appropriate uniform and make sure that it is neat and clean. Just as players are expected to be properly attired, so should you be. If you present yourself in a sloppy manner it sends a signal that you may be sloppy in your tasks as an official.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

- Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use. Discourage players from engaging in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or “slam dunking”. Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but also

3.7 Code of Conduct for Administrators

- Make your club environment more user friendly by providing equal opportunities for all to participate.
- Create pathways for young people to participate in sport, not just as an athlete but as judges, coaches and administrators.
- Ensure that the types of programs, rules, and equipment and training times are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.
- Ensure that everyone emphasizes participation and improvement not only scores.
- Give a code of behavior sheet to all club members and encourage them to follow it.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Maximise child safety by conducting volunteer screenings and other child protection strategies.
- Implement policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- Adopt and implement relevant sport safety policies and practices.
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- Listen to your gymnasts and involve them in decisions, leadership, planning, and evaluation related to the club.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

4. Online and Social Media Expectations

- Be respectful, responsible, and positive in all digital communication.
- Do not post photos or videos of others without permission.
- Never share confidential or sensitive club information online.
- Refrain from engaging in gossip, bullying, or negative comments.
- **Always remember: your actions online represent you, your club, and the broader gymnastics community**

5. Protecting Our Reputation

- Members are ambassadors of the club and any affiliated organizations (e.g., the YMCA).
- Actions that damage the reputation of the club—online or offline—will not be tolerated.
- We expect all members to act with integrity and pride in representing the club.

6. Disciplinary Actions

Breaches of this Code of Conduct may result in:

- Warnings (verbal or written)
- Suspension from training or events

- Permanent removal from the club (in serious cases) Each situation will be handled fairly and according to club policy.
- Matter may also be referred to Sport Integrity Australia and or affiliated sporting Association integrity units as part of the investigation process.

8. Agreement

All members, by joining YMCA Geelong, agree to uphold this Code of Conduct in the gym, in public, and online—to help create a respectful, safe, and inspiring environment for everyone.

9. Member Protect Framework

The Y works with affiliation National Sporting Associations to ensure the National Integrity Framework is implemented within our clubs and programs.

This Code of Conduct should also be read in conjunction with the relevant affiliated sports member protection policy.

[Gymnastics Australia - https://media-cdn.incrowdsports.com/8a7c1d5c-353b-4c30-8804-24da81192419.pdf](https://media-cdn.incrowdsports.com/8a7c1d5c-353b-4c30-8804-24da81192419.pdf)

[Basketball Australia- https://resources.basketball-australia.pulselive.com/basketball-australia/document/2024/12/04/28016700-0170-49cc-a16d-768e7ee4dbd0/BA-Members-Protection-Policy-v2.1-Oct-2024.pdf](https://resources.basketball-australia.pulselive.com/basketball-australia/document/2024/12/04/28016700-0170-49cc-a16d-768e7ee4dbd0/BA-Members-Protection-Policy-v2.1-Oct-2024.pdf)

[Netball Australia- https://netball.com.au/sites/netballnation/files/2025-01/INT010%20Member%20Protection%20Policy%20Effective%20Date%201%20February%202025.pdf](https://netball.com.au/sites/netballnation/files/2025-01/INT010%20Member%20Protection%20Policy%20Effective%20Date%201%20February%202025.pdf)

[Judo Australia- https://www.ausjudo.com.au/files/ugd/ea5ddd_44470d27ea8e487380bd80a02a17d58b.pdf](https://www.ausjudo.com.au/files/ugd/ea5ddd_44470d27ea8e487380bd80a02a17d58b.pdf)

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Policy Owner: Chief Executive Officer

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Amendment history:

V1	July 2011	Colin Hunt	Document created
V2	04/04/2014	Shona Eland	Uploaded to YMCA Geelong Policy Template included scope, monitoring and evaluation clauses.

V3	09/02/2016	Shona Eland	Included Parent Guidelines to SCYP
V4	28/06/2024	Shona Eland	Changed numbering of Policy, add online and social media Added Clauses 4, 5, 6 7 8
V5	17/04/2025	Shona Eland	Added Clause 9 – Member Protection Framework and linked to Member Protection Policies

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Adopted and reviewed by the YMCA of Geelong Inc on 17/04/2025



Chief Executive Officer YMCA Geelong Inc.