

Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing and valuable support at the numerous sporting fixtures and events throughout the year. In addition I would like to provide a gentle reminder of our sporting ethos and our joint responsibility to uphold the core principles in terms of our attitude and behaviour before, during and after each sporting event.

Match day is inevitably an exciting occasion for all but it can also be a highly charged affair with the opportunity for emotions to run out of control when the stakes appear to be high.

At BMS our aim is to provide a sports programme that is based on positive and enjoyable experiences. We believe in the development of the whole child and the promotion of a lifetime investment in sport and physical activity. This sporting ethos celebrates enjoyment, opportunity, breadth of participation and excellence both on and off the field.

In order for our ethos to be upheld and our sports programme to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of all involved; players, coaches, officials, staff, spectators and parents. We will continue to reinforce our sporting principles within school, however, I believe it is essential that we include parents and friends of BMS in this process.

The following points clarify what we believe to be the essential standards associated with the BMS sporting culture. In effect it is a code of conduct for supporters but is intended to include you rather than alienate you and should be digested with this sentiment in mind.

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. It is not acceptable for anyone to ridicule or chastise their child or others for making a mistake or for losing a game. Parents should encourage children to play according to the rules at all times.

Parent/Coach Alliance

The entire coaching staff are wholly grateful for the support, encouragement and assistance many parents provide, often driving long distances and rearranging busy schedules to cheer on the team 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.

Please refrain from.....

- Entering the playing arena at any time unless invited to do so by the coach
- 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

Our 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.

As Director of Sport I believe that the 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 entirely qualified to take all factors into consideration and make the right decisions for the team as a whole.

Parents & Match Officials

If you have ever refereed in sport you will know how hard it is to have the “perfect” game. The best referees in the world make mistakes, just like the best players. However, remember decisions are often down to interpretation of the laws and more often than not, it is us coaches, players and spectators that get it wrong. It is vital we show respect towards the official and their decisions – whether we agree or not. Please remember they are volunteers providing an opportunity for youngsters to play sport and without them there would be no game.

We tend to remember the referee’s decision as the only thing that determined the outcome of a game and forget the performance of both teams during the course of the game. As coaches, players and spectators, we must refrain from blaming the official and refrain from reacting negatively to decisions. In particular, questioning decisions from the touchline must be avoided.

Parent to Parent Respect

- Parents and spectators have a responsibility to other parents and spectators. Personal gain and satisfaction should not be derived from a child’s performance. 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.
- Parents and Spectators have a responsibility to themselves. The joy and pride associated with watching children learn and grow through sport should be experienced to the fullest, because life-long memories are being created before your eyes.

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.

I will close by reinforcing the message I started with. BMS parents, friends and supporters play an essential role in maximising the success of school sport. I hope that together we will achieve the very highest standards appropriate to our school.

I look forward to your ongoing support and seeing you on the touchline in the near future.



Patrick Jerram
Director of Sport