



St Patrick's Catholic School Latrobe

Values Statement for Parents, Carers and other Spectators Attending School Sporting Events

The following Values Statement, which is available on the school's web site or upon request from the school office, provides a set of simple protocols for spectators to promote a safe and positive environment at all sporting events in which our students are representing the school. By enrolling their child at St Patrick's parents agree to support a commitment to the values and ethos of the school and therefore accept the standards of behaviour in this statement, which implies we model good sportsmanship to our children and fellow adult family members, provide opportunities for the children to grow on the sports field and ensure that sporting occasions are positive experiences for all concerned.

1. Children are encouraged to participate in sport but should not be obliged to participate.
 - a. It is preferable to focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
 - b. Ridiculing or yelling at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition is not appropriate.
2. Respect for the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion is central to the culture of sport.
3. All participants and supporters are encouraged to familiarise themselves with any rules or guidelines that apply to a particular event and abide by any such rules and guidelines.
4. Children are encouraged always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
5. All participants and supporters are asked to show appreciation for coaches, officials and managers and maintain positive relationships by being courteous and constructive in all communication with them.
 - a. Officials' decisions should be respected by both spectators and players.
 - b. The authority of coaches and managers should be respected and it is inappropriate to question or confront them at the sports venue or during training sessions in front of other spectators and players.
6. Verbal and physical abuse by players or spectators is unacceptable.
 - a. Barracking may be enthusiastic but it should never be fanatical or designed to heckle, belittle or disturb opposing team members.
 - b. The use of bad language or any other form of harassment of players, coaches, officials, referees or other spectators is unacceptable.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the behaviour/approach/methods of team coaches, managers or supervising staff, please do not approach them directly. Direct any queries or concerns to the principal of St Patrick's Catholic School in the first instance or the body responsible for the particular sport at an event; the school's Grievance Policy is the underlying supportive document and parents should be both familiar with this document and abide by its protocols. The principal reserves the right to withdraw the representation of any student in any representative sport if the child and/or child's supporters (family, friends) act contrary to the values and intent of this document, which imply courtesy and consideration is a mutual relationship.

Based on: The Australian Sports Commission Junior Sport Codes Of Behaviour.