



# 'Life. Be in it.' Sport for all SA

## CODE OF CONDUCT - PLAYERS

### **General Code of Conduct**

As a player/coach/spectator/official in or at a 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS program, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS:

- 1.1 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- 1.2 Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealing with others.
- 1.3 Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions.
- 1.4 Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to, 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS standards, rules, regulations and policies.
- 1.5 Operate within the rules of the sport you are associated with, including national and international guidelines which govern the sport, except where a Centre By-law over rules.
- 1.6 Refrain from any form of harassment of others.
- 1.7 Refrain from any behaviour that may bring 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS, a participating team or associated organisations into disrepute or that is detrimental to the image of the program (unsportsmanlike, abusive, violent, etc).
- 1.8 No balls are to be used for practice near or around courts upon which a match is in progress.
- 1.9 Smoking, alcohol or illicit drugs are not permitted inside the property or boundaries of any stadium.
- 1.10 No animals, with the exception of registered guide/hearing dogs, are permitted inside any stadium.
- 1.11 No bikes, skateboards, roller shoes etc are permitted inside any stadium.
- 1.12 No photographic equipment may be used inside any stadium without prior permission from Centre Management.
- 1.13 Any player, official or other person responsible for causing damage to any stadium shall be required to pay the cost of repair or a charge towards such costs as determined by Centre management.
- 1.14 Persons concerned about officials/opposition players/spectators etc. should raise their concerns with 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Management staff immediately. In the event of significant disputes/complaints, the pertinent matters should be stated in writing and delivered to the 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Manager within 48 hours of the match or incident concerned.
- 1.15 Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behaviour (see section 7).

### **2. Coach Code of Conduct**

In addition to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS. General Code of Conduct, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct as a Coach during any activity held or sanctioned by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS and in your role as a coach appointed by your team, school or club:

- 2.1 Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
- 2.2 Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity with people under 18 years of age.
- 2.3 Ensure your words and actions contribute to a safe and harassment-free environment.
- 2.4 Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting activities, regardless of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socio-economic status and other conditions.
- 2.5 Encourage players to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of play.
- 2.6 Accept and respect the role of officials.  
Coaches involved in Senior competitions who are unsure about calls should ask their team captain to approach the official in a respectful manner at the next break in play.  
Coaches involved in Junior competitions must direct any questions/comments to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Management staff and under no circumstances are they to approach the official (unless the comment is complimentary).
- 2.7 Know and abide by all rules, regulations and standards, and encourage players to do likewise. Accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules.

### **3. Player Code of Conduct**

In addition to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS General Code of Conduct, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct as a player during any activity held or sanctioned by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS:

- 3.1 Care for and respect the equipment provided to you as part of your program.
- 3.2 Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper, sportsmanship and punctuality.
- 3.3 Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the official, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision.

Players in Senior competitions who are unsure about calls should ask their captain to approach the official in a respectful manner at the next break in play.

Players in Junior competitions must direct any questions/comments to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Management staff and under no circumstances are they to approach the official (unless the comment is complimentary).

#### **4. Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

In addition to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS General Code of Conduct, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct as a parent/guardian of a player/participant during any activity held or sanctioned by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS.

4.1 Never ridicule or yell at any child for making a mistake or losing a competition. Instead, focus on the child's effort and participation.

4.2 Show appreciation for good performance and skilful plays by all players (including opposing players).

4.3 Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.

Parents involved in Senior competitions who are unsure about calls should ask the team captain to approach the official in a respectful manner at the next break in play.

Parents involved in Junior competitions must direct any questions/comments to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Management staff and under no circumstances are they to approach the official (unless the comment is complimentary).

4.4 Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone associated with the sport (player, coach, umpire and so on).

#### **5. Spectator Code of Conduct**

In addition to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS General Code of Conduct, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct as a spectator during any activity held or sanctioned by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS:

5.1 Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.

5.2 Never ridicule or harass a player for making a mistake.

5.3 Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.

5.4 Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.

5.5 Do not use violence, harassment or abuse in any form (that is, do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators).

#### **6. Official Code of Conduct**

In addition to 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS General Code of Conduct, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS and in your role as an official appointed by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS:

6.1 Place the safety and welfare of the players/participants above all else, whilst acknowledging the right of the player/coach to make their own decisions and to participate at their own risk.

6.2 Be consistent and impartial.

6.3 Be courteous and respectful.

6.4 Senior officials, at their own discretion, should be open to respectful and appropriate discussion and interaction with players/coaches. Junior officials must not engage in any discussion with players, coaches or spectators and should seek assistance from 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Management staff if approached.

6.5 Do not tolerate any unsportsmanlike behaviour from any person associated with your game and promote respect for all people.

#### **7. Penalties for Breaching this Code of Conduct**

If a player/coach/spectator/parent/guardian acts in a manner that breaches this Code of Conduct, the following penalties apply:

Match Officials and 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Management staff have the authority to remove any player/coach/spectator/parent/guardian from the courts and/or the building. A player/coach/spectator/parent/guardian can be suspended from the competition and/or stadium for a period of time as deemed appropriate by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS Management.

Penalties for breaches occurring after the final siren of the match in which the offender is involved may be more severe than penalties applied for breaches during the match.

*This code of conduct is adapted from "The Essence of Australian Sport" code of behaviour authorised by the Australian Sports Commission on their website: <http://www.ausport.gov.au/supporting/ethics/strategy/codes/pages/template> and is open to amendment by 'Life. Be in it.' at MARS*

*Management staff at any time, without prior notice.*

**Last updated 31 August 2009**