

OUR COUGAR

FAMILY



CODE OF CONDUCT

WABL TEAM OFFICIAL





Managed by: Cockburn Basketball Association

Responsible Person: TT

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Approval Of Policy/Rules Documents

Amended by **Tyrone Thwaites**, Cockburn Basketball Association **CEO** on **30/01/2023**

POLICY: Cockburn Basketball Association Board Approved and Minuted V01 on **01/02/2023** at the scheduled board meeting.

Version	Date Approved	Next Review	Amendments
V01	01/02/2023	30/01/2025	NA



Cockburn Basketball Association – WABL Team Official Code of Conduct

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Cockburn Basketball Association (CBA) prides itself on facilitating an experience for the community that places a premium on enjoyment, inclusion, and excellence. As part of maintaining this experience, the CBA has a baseline expectation when it comes to behaviour. This is in the form of a Code of Conduct, that applies to all engaging as part of the CBA, no matter the venue.

The Code of Conduct outlined in this document has been adapted and expanded from the CBA's broad Code of Conduct, to ensure a detailed understanding of what is expected from a team official at WABL level. This should be read in conjunction with the Wally Hagan Stadium Terms of Entry document.

This Code of Conduct applies to Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Volunteer/Parent Assistant Coaches and Team Managers of a WABL team. It will be displayed on the CBA's website. All coaches, and team managers acknowledge when signing up via the registration database that they have read and acknowledged the Code of Conduct.

2. WABL Team Official Code of Conduct

- a) Remember that basketball is for enjoyment.

Remember basketballers play for fun and enjoyment, and winning is only part of their motivation. Always make sure participants are made to feel welcome whenever they attend for training or a game.

Ensure that activities are carefully planned, well-structured and varied to provide opportunities for individual and team development.

Never ridicule players for making mistakes of losing a competition. See errors or losses as an opportunity to learn in a constructive way. Comment in a manner designed to create interest, involvement, and development.

- b) Be reasonable in your demands.

When scheduling (if applicable) training and other WABL related activity, be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy, and enthusiasm. Considering their age, level of play and other commitments such as school and employment.



Young children are likely to have more time but short attention spans. They may have plenty of energy but are likely to need more guidance on how best to look after their bodies. The differences in physical and mental maturity can be quite marked in younger children of the same age group. All these factors need to be considered in coaching young children.

Older children have greater demands from their studies and many of them need to work to assist their schooling. Try to assist them in achieving a good balance between the various demands on them.

c) Teach understanding and respect for the rules.

Teach your players that understanding and playing by the rules is their own responsibility and the rules exist for the safety, proper order and enjoyment of all people involved in basketball. The lessons to be learned in basketball are lessons that can and should be carried over into all aspects of their lives. Do not encourage players to ignore or deliberately break any rules.

d) Adhere to the CBA WABL Information Guide.

This is a governing document that outlines the expectations of both players and parents. Coaches are expected to have a thorough understanding of this document, including player selection policy, court time, uniform requirements, domestic eligibility and more.

e) Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, including their coaches.

Part of participation in sport is respect for all participants in the game. Encourage your players to accept their opponents are entitled to proper courtesy. This means introducing themselves to their opponents on court, congratulating them whether they win or lose and accepting loss gracefully. Teach them the opposition coach is there trying to do the best for their team and is also entitled to respect.

f) Instil in your players respect for officials and an acceptance of their judgement.

Players should be taught to understand officials have a very difficult task to perform and without them games could not be played. They are there to enforce the rules of play, but they cannot always be right. Teach your players to accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour that will not be tolerated. Players who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions should be singled out for counselling and guidance.



- g) Guide your players in their interaction with the media, parents, and spectators.

It is sometimes very difficult for players to concentrate on the game when there is the distraction of the presence of friends and relatives as spectators. Coaches have a difficult role to play in teaching players respect for their parents and other spectators but also teaching them to maintain concentration on the team plan if spectators become over-enthusiastic.

Parents sometimes make demands on their children's time which interferes in their basketball activities. Respect this and try to structure your coaching and their training and playing times and obligations to take those demands into account. There are many other factors which need to be balanced, including venue availability and requirements of administrators. The coach's task is not easy.

- h) Group players in a manner that best suits their development needs.

Uneven competition can lead to a loss of enthusiasm. Coaches should always try and group players of reasonably equal ability. When coaching children, it is important to remember the different maturity rates for children of the same age. A player in their early teenage years may be the tallest in their team and yet because they have matured early, be one of the shorter players in only a brief time.

- i) Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.

In our increasingly litigious and accountable society, all those involved in sport have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and well-being of participants. Coaches are in a unique position to control many of the factors which can influence this welfare. Coaches should be aware of dangerous factors such as heat and dehydration, wet floors and other potentially hazardous environmental situations can cause. Coaches should familiarise themselves with CBA policies in these areas. These can be found online using www.cougarfamily.com. A coach has a responsibility to avoid putting players into dangerous conditions. Similarly, coaches have a duty of care towards their athletes to ensure they leave their care safely.

- j) Be prepared to lose sometimes.

Everyone wins and loses at some time. Be a fair winner and a good loser. Disappointment at losing is natural, but it should not be obvious to the point of being unpleasant for others. Just as unpleasant can be the boastful winner. Recognise that even in defeat, the loser has achieved something, just by playing. Not everything in life can be a winning situation. Losing can be an important learning experience for your wider life goals. Guide your players to accept a loss in this spirit.



- k) Act responsibly when players are ill or injured.

Show concern and take responsibility for players who are sick or injured whilst under your care. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured or ill player is ready to recommence play. If a player is injured on court, make sure that there is no danger of further aggravation of the injury by prompt removal of the player if this is appropriate. Qualify yourself to administer first aid (if possible) so you can recognise the seriousness of an injury or illness and act accordingly.

- l) As well as imparting knowledge or skills, promote desirable personal and social behaviours.

Be aware of the role of the coach as an educator. Particularly with young people, the way they perform in their lives is influenced by many factors. An important influence is the person they see as a role model. Coaches often take on the part of role model for many young people. It is therefore important to ensure that the influence from coaches is seen in a positive light rather adversely. What you say and how you act can be most important in modelling the behaviour of players.

- m) Be prepared to invest in yourself and the CBA's culture / style of play.

Seek to keep abreast of changes in sport. Ensure that the information used is up to date, appropriate to the needs of players and considers the principles of growth and development of children. Players cannot learn from you if your skills and knowledge are inadequate. This includes buying in to the CBA's culture and style of play direction (particularly from coaches) and engaging in appropriate professional development when invited.

- n) Ensure any physical contact with a player is appropriate.

Physical contact between a coach and a player except that which would be considered usual social contact such as the shaking of a hand or a "high five" should be rare. Gestures which can be well meaning, or even considered by some to be acceptable, may be unacceptable to others. Sometimes physical contact can be misinterpreted as sexual harassment or even molestation. Care needs to be taken in coaching children. Ensure that if there is physical contact with a player that it is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.

- o) Avoid personal relationships with players.

Personal relationships with players can often be misinterpreted as something sinister. Friendship with players is essential to building trust between a coach and players. However, the power imbalance in a coaching situation can make it unwise for a relationship to develop beyond friendship. Care must be taken when coaching children.



p) 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.

q) 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 and your players do not abuse anything provided for use. Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but serious injury can occur.