



BEHAVIOUR AT SPORTS MATCHES

We are so aware of how to act professionally in the workplace that in many instances, political correctness has stopped being a cliché and has become the norm. We are careful not to offend anyone in the office or faculty room - we are respectful of each other's personal space and have become increasingly mindful of racist, sexist and cultural sensitivities. More than being professionals, we are role models to hundreds of boys. Boys who observe our behaviour, take it on board, assimilate it and then tailor their own responses to human interaction as a result. Yet, our behaviour alongside the sports field is completely at odds with that which we display in the workplace, at our dinner table and in other social interactions.

- Whereas we would never shout abuse at a work colleague in front of the boys, we think nothing of shouting at the referee – who in some cases is a colleague.
- While we are mindful to nurture the boys in our care with sage words of advice in an attempt to help them make the right decisions, some (not all) direct a volley of accusations of wrongdoing at our own players and players from the opposition – players who are also boys in need of good role models
- We question the decisions of the referee at every turn. The coaches' bench erupts periodically during the game – adults with arms in the air – otherwise respected staff rushing off the bench to the touchline to query decisions – in full view of players and boys in uniform supporting. Parents shout at schoolboy refs and teachers that have given up their time to referee.
- Opposition coaches have a go at each other in front of the boys in a way that we would not dare to do if we were wearing a jacket and tie
- As educators, we should be able to maintain the moral high ground and be in a position to intervene when the behaviour of boys and spectators is unacceptable. Yet how do we do this when we spend the whole morning acting in a similar way?
- A player that has his doubts about the referee's integrity will not focus on his game and will look for excuses for his own poor performance. Once the coach displays open anger at a referee's decision, this sends a clear message to the team that the referee has no integrity. This is a slippery slope and can only lead to ill-discipline and a lack of focus

The coaching staff and management of all schools that we play against need to know that it is Wynberg policy to set a good example to our learners.

- No coach will openly question a refereeing decision / the same applies to parents and boys
- No coach will shout at the players or officials in an unseemly fashion (the same applies to parents and boys)
- Coaches and management will act immediately against parents and players that verbally abuse match officials and players / in the same way, we invite parents to point out coaches that act inappropriately.
- A well prepared team does not need verbal instructions from coaches throughout the course of the match especially when these are shouted from from 70 or 80 meters away

It is incumbent on us, as educators, to set the example to all who play and watch our sport. This includes players, parents and any other spectator that is in some way connected to the school or not. It is our stated aim that through our actions, we will change the behaviour of all that support our teams and those of our opposition.