



MOUNTAIN DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Mountain District Netball Association (MDNA) has a zero-tolerance policy to abusive behaviour in any form. Any behaviour displayed at MDNA events that affects someone's emotional or physical wellbeing will be addressed under this Code of Conduct.

MDNA is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in netball by providing a safe and inclusive environment and by ensuring that everyone involved in netball is educated and informed of their responsibilities to protect and look after children.

All children have the right to feel safe and protected from all forms of abuse, harm and neglect.

Children have the right to take part in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment.

MDNA has a legal obligation under Mandatory Child Safety Standards to ensure all players (and coaches and umpires) under 18 years of age are protected and feel safe while they are participating in netball. We cannot allow them to feel threatened or intimidated, therefore breaches of this code will result in disciplinary action.

MDNA requires all attendees at all MDNA facilitated events to act with integrity and respect to provide an environment of safety and enjoyment for everyone – not just those under 18 for which we have a legal obligation to protect.

Expectations

All spectators must ensure the standards of the Fair Play Code are applied by demonstrating the five core values that will lead to fair play for all:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Safety

In addition to Netball Australia Child Safe Guarding Policy (effective 1 January 2023)

<https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2023-01/INT011%20-%20Child%20Safeguarding%20Policy%20Version%201.1%201%20January%202023.pdf>

Most players (in particular children) participate in netball activities for fun. They are not participating for entertainment of spectators only.

As a spectator in any activity held by, or under the auspices of, Mountain District Netball Association you must meet the following requirements during any such activity or event.

1. Fully comply with the Netball Victoria Child Safety in Netball Code of Conduct.
<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Child-Safety-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>
2. Applaud good performance and efforts by all players. When watching a game congratulate both teams upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
3. Respect the umpires and coach's decisions. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure to question the decision and teach children to do likewise.

4. Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
5. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by administrators, coaches, players, umpires or parents/guardians.
6. **Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, and not harassing administrators, coaches, players or umpires.**
7. Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation.
8. Encourage players to play according to the rules and official decisions, and develop your own knowledge of the rules.
9. Support the use of age appropriate development activities and modified rules.

Breaches of the Code

Spectators attending netball games facilitated by Mountain District Netball Association at the Knox Netball Centre (indoor and outdoor courts) must adhere to this Code of Conduct.

Concerns regarding spectator's behaviour raised during the course of the game will see an MDNA court supervisor attend the game to discuss the issue with the spectator in question. The MDNA supervisor will clearly identify themselves and ensure the person/s in question are aware they are acting on behalf of the Association in accordance with Child Safe practices.

A report will be provided by the MDNA Court Supervisor following attendance at the incident.

First Offence – Spectators will receive a written warning **directly from Mountain District Netball Association** (with their affiliated Club also being notified).

Second Offence – Spectator is sanctioned for 2 competition weeks. They are not permitted to attend the Knox Netball Centre to observe Mountain District Netball Association competitions during that time. Should they breach this sanction the game will cease with the associated team recorded as forfeiting the match and will therefore receive no competition points for that game.

Third Offence – Permanent expulsion from the Mountain District Netball Association competitions held at the Knox Netball Centre. Attendance at a game following expulsion will result in the game ceasing with the associated team recorded as forfeiting the match and will therefore receive no competition points for that game.

Immediate Removal

If the court supervisor deems the matter requires the removal of the spectator/s from the centre then they will be required to leave immediately.

Complaints

Complaints affecting an attendees emotional or physical wellbeing can be made in writing to the Vice-President of the MDNA Board (acting in their capacity as Child Safety Officer) via email to vp@mdnanetball.com.au.

At the discretion of the MDNA Child Safety Officer, depending on the seriousness of the offence, and in consultation with the MDNA Board Executive, the spectator may immediately be sanctioned as per second or third offence.

Complaints relating to competition rules or bylaw clarifications should be sent to the MDNA administrator at administrator@mdnanetball.com.au

All complaints must be via the affiliated Club.

MDNA recognises that the majority of spectators attending netball matches act appropriately and are positive role models for our young people. However given the seriousness of the issue, and the increased incidence in recent times, it is imperative that all spectators are fully aware that this behaviour will not be tolerated. MDNA seeks to reassure players and parents that we will do everything we can to protect those attending our competitions, especially our young people.

MDNA's core philosophy is that sport is to be enjoyed and therefore these are not unreasonable expectations.

This Code of Conduct has been developed in collaboration with MDNA affiliated clubs and is fully supported by all Clubs.

References

Definition: spectator

a person who watches an activity, especially a sports event, without taking part

Definition: Code of Conduct

a set of rules and guidelines that outline the expected behaviour and standards for individuals within a particular community, organization, or club.

Australian Child Protection Legislation

<https://aifs.gov.au/resources/resource-sheets/australian-child-protection-legislation>