

SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR

POLICY



*We value respect, safety, and enjoyment for all.
Help us create a positive atmosphere.*

At St Thomas Hawks Basketball Club, we believe that basketball is a recreational activity designed for enjoyment, health, and personal growth. In line with Basketball Victoria's guidelines, this policy outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all spectators to ensure that everyone involved in the game can fully benefit from and enjoy their participation.

Our aim is to create a positive environment that encourages people to start and continue their involvement in basketball. Enjoy the game!

In line with Basketball Victoria's guidelines these behaviours are outlined in our Code of Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct specifically include :

- 1. Respect All Participants:**
 - Show respect to players, coaches, referees, and other spectators at all times.
- 2. No Abuse or Harassment:**
 - Verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated.
- 3. No Sideline Coaching:**
 - Let the coach do the coaching. Cheer and support players positively.
- 4. Keep It Positive:**
 - Encourage players, avoid negative comments.
- 5. Adhere to venue rules:**
 - Respect the facilities and equipment provided, and ensure that under your control children are supervised and behaving in a manner that meets the policy.
- 6. Support the club's efforts:**
 - Help us maintain a positive environment by addressing any unacceptable behaviour you witness by escalating to this to a committee member.
- 7. Speak up:**
 - If you see or hear something that is not in accordance with the policy, speak up. We are in this together.



Basketball Victoria
Code of Conduct



DVBL Zero
Tolerance Policy



SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR POLICY

St Thomas Greensborough North Basketball Club is committed to providing a safe environment for participation. Aggressive, threatening or other inappropriate behaviour by members, their families, their friends, whilst in attendance at any game or event will not be tolerated.

Our club will not tolerate poor behaviour from spectators.

Examples of unacceptable behaviours that are strictly prohibited include, but are not limited to:

1. **Abusing, harassing or ridiculing players, coaches, scorers, referees, officials, or other spectators.**
 - This includes verbally disputing calls or decisions made during the game.
2. **Using foul or abusive language, or making racist, religious, sexist, or other offensive comments.**
 - This applies to language directed at players, officials, coaches, or other spectators.
3. **Engaging in threatening behaviour, physical altercations or encouraging violence.**
 - This behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
4. **Displaying disrespectful behaviour towards opponents or their supporters.**
 - This includes taunting, jeering, or making derogatory remarks.
5. **Failing to control children under your supervision.**
 - Children should not be allowed to disrupt the game or put themselves in danger.
6. **Placing undue pressure on children or criticising their performance.**
 - This can damage their confidence and diminish their enjoyment of the game.

Failure to comply with this policy, may result in the following actions taken by the St Thomas Greensborough North Basketball Club Committee (on top of any sanctions imposed by DVBA):

1. **No more warnings:** Implementation and release of this policy is the final warning.
2. **Suspension from future games:** Subsequent to a report from DVBA, the person responsible for the breach of policy will face a 1 week sanction from the club. Sanctions are at the discretion of the relevant club's committee.
3. **Impact on player participation:** For the safety of all, ongoing/repeat offenders will face suspension of family participation (including players) if the behaviour is considered to be a direct contravention to the game's integrity and the clubs behaviour policy.
4. **Ongoing failure to comply with this directive will result in refusal to accept future registrations from your family at the club.**

We trust that all spectators will adhere to this policy and contribute to making every game a positive experience for everyone involved.



Basketball Behaviour Policy – Spectators

St Thomas Hawks Basketball Club

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Basketball Behaviour Policy – Spectators

At St Thomas Hawks Basketball Club, we believe that basketball is a recreational activity designed for enjoyment, health, and personal growth. In line with Basketball Victoria's guidelines, this policy outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all spectators to ensure that everyone involved in the game can fully benefit from and enjoy their participation. Our aim is to create a positive environment that encourages people to start and continue their involvement in basketball. Enjoy the game!

Commitment to a Safe and Positive Environment

Our club is dedicated to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all participants. We will not tolerate any aggressive, threatening, or inappropriate behaviour from members, their families, friends, or other attendees at our games or events. Such behaviour disrupts the spirit of the game and undermines the experience for everyone involved.

Unacceptable Behaviours

Our club will not tolerate poor behaviour from spectators. Examples of unacceptable behaviours that are strictly prohibited include, but are not limited to:

- **Abusing, harassing or ridiculing players, coaches, referees, officials, or other spectators:** This includes verbally disputing calls or decisions made during the game.
- **Using foul or abusive language, or making racist, religious, sexist, or other offensive comments:** This applies to language directed at players, officials, coaches, or other spectators.
- **Engaging in threatening behaviour, physical altercations or encouraging violence:** This behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- **Displaying disrespectful behaviour towards opponents or their supporters:** This includes taunting, jeering, or making derogatory remarks.
- **Failing to control children under your supervision:** Children should not be allowed to disrupt the game or put themselves in danger.
- **Placing undue pressure on children or criticising their performance:** This can damage their confidence and diminish their enjoyment of the game.
- **Being intoxicated at a club event or game:** This behaviour disrupts the environment and sets a poor example for younger players.

Sideline Coaching

Sideline coaching is not permitted. It is important that the coach's voice remains the primary source of direction for the players during the game.

Sideline Coaching Is:

- Providing instructions or directions beyond what the coach is providing.
- Shouting directions to players from the spectator area.
- Overpowering the coach's voice, making it difficult for players to hear.
- Interacting with referees in any capacity – this is strictly prohibited.

Sideline Coaching Is Not:

- Cheering and clapping for the players.
- Offering words of encouragement while players are on the court.
- Supporting players to perform at their best with positive reinforcement.

Our Club's Responsibilities

As a club, we commit to:

- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** We will enforce a zero-tolerance policy for the abuse of officials. (Refer to DVBA policy – available [here](#).)
- **Clear Communication:** We will provide our Code of Behaviour to all members, parents, and relevant personnel, ensuring they understand what is expected of them and the consequences of non-compliance.
- **Enforcing the Code of Conduct:** We will take appropriate action against any spectator who fails to adhere to this policy.
- **Binding Non-Members:** Where possible, we will make non-members aware of our expectations by displaying conditions of entry at training facilities and requiring parents to adhere to club rules (e.g., through associate membership and signing our Code of Behaviour).
- **Promoting Respectful Behaviour:** We will reinforce messages of fair and respectful behaviour by displaying signs, posters, and providing information through our website, newsletter, and other communication channels.
- **Supporting Coaches and Officials:** We will encourage our coaches and officials to undertake training to enhance their skills and confidence.
- **Collaboration with Local Authorities:** We will consult with local police for advice and support in managing inappropriate behaviour by spectators before, during, and after games.

- **Incident Reporting and Investigation:** We will encourage the reporting of inappropriate behaviour, investigate incidents thoroughly, and take necessary disciplinary actions. This may include appointing a ground official to monitor behaviour.
- **Ensuring Safety:** We will encourage all participants to contact St Thomas Basketball Club via their Team manager stadium if they are concerned about escalating behaviour or their safety.

Your Responsibilities as a Spectator

As a spectator, you are expected to:

- **Respect all participants:** This includes players, coaches, referees, and other spectators.
- **Encourage players positively:** Offer words of encouragement and avoid negative comments.
- **Adhere to venue rules:** Respect the facilities and equipment provided, and ensure that children are kept under control.
- **Support the club's efforts:** Help us maintain a positive environment by addressing any unacceptable behaviour you witness by escalating to the committee via your team manager.

Non-Compliance

Spectators who fail to comply with this policy, including those who are associate members or have agreed to abide by our club's Code of Behaviour, may face disciplinary actions as outlined in the DVBA policy – available [here](#).

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the following actions taken by the St Thomas Greensborough North Basketball Club Committee:

- **No more warnings:** Immediate action from the committee will be taken for any violation.
- **Disciplinary action:** Offending spectators may be subject to disciplinary measures as determined by the club.
- **Suspension from future games:** Repeat offenders may face being suspended from attending future games.
- **Impact on player participation:** For the safety of all, the club reserves the right to keep your child on the bench or suspended from a match if parent or child behaviour is deemed a threat to the game's integrity.

We trust that all spectators will adhere to this policy and contribute to making every game a positive experience for everyone involved.

Implementation

These guidelines will be prominently displayed at the training venue and communicated to all participants, including players, coaches, officials, and spectators. Enforcement of these guidelines will be the responsibility of the coaching staff and the designated stadium supervisor.

Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed annually by the committee to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Any necessary revisions will be made to address changing needs and circumstances.



Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct

Spectators Code of Conduct

1. Remember that most people play sport for enjoyment.

People are not playing basketball for the entertainment of spectators nor are many of them professionals. You should be watching basketball for your own enjoyment and to show support for those playing. Help the players to enjoy their game. Applaud good performances from each team. Congratulate all players regardless of the outcome.

2. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability.

Referees and officials have a difficult task to perform. You would not have a game to enjoy without them. They are there to enforce the rules of play but they cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour. Spectators who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, accept it graciously – you cannot change it.

3. Always be positive in your support for players.

Never ridicule or shout at a player, particularly a young player for making a mistake during competition. Positive support for players will offer encouragement to them and most likely spur them to better things on the court.

4. Condemn the use of violence in any form.

Never encourage players to engage in violence or engage in it yourself. Violence has no place in basketball and strong action should be taken to discourage it.

5. Respect your team's opponents, officials and spectators.

Without your team's opponents, there would be no game. Their supporters are there to enjoy the game as much as you are. Light-hearted banter with an opposing spectator can add a further element of fun to a game. Conversely, nasty or inappropriate behaviour or remarks will seriously detract from it.

6. Encourage players to obey the rules and to accept decisions of officials.

Often players can get carried away when spectators become enthusiastic or heated over an issue. This can be a positive but it can also be negative when it involves such behaviour as disputing decisions. Always encourage players to obey the rules and do not dispute referees' decisions.

7. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches or officials.

Anti social behaviour such as foul or abusive language has no place in basketball. If others engage in it, just ignore them – they will soon tire of it if they get no reaction. Alternatively, ask them politely to desist. If it continues and it is serious, bring it to the attention of an official.

8. 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.

9. Keep children in your care under control.

Basketball encourages you to bring your children to games. However, there can be dangers to them in a basketball stadium. They can also constitute a danger to players. You should ensure that children with you at a basketball game are well behaved and do not wander onto or too near to courts. They can easily be knocked down by a player or a player can trip over a child when concentrating on the play and not expecting a small child to be in the way.

10. 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 do not abuse anything provided for use. Do not encourage players to engage in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or "slam dunking". Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but also serious injury can occur.