



Code of Conduct for players, spectators & officials

Purpose of this Policy

This policy sets out the obligations and behaviours of umpires, players, coaches, parents, spectators, and committee members to ensure every person involved in netball in the Hills Netball Association is provided with a safe environment, is treated with respect, and is protected from discrimination, harassment, abuse, and bullying.

The Hills Netball Association will take action necessary to minimise any form of inappropriate behaviour within our organisation.

Allegations and incidents of harassment and bullying can often be most effectively resolved if they are dealt with at an early stage. Therefore, the Hills Netball Association encourages all umpires, players, coaches, parents, spectators, and committee members to report all instances of harassment or bullying as soon as they occur. The Hills Netball Association may take disciplinary action against any person or organisation that breaches this policy.

The Hills Netball Association aims to assist with the prevention of discrimination, harassment, and any other forms of inappropriate behaviour from netball by providing procedures that describe the practical steps umpires, players, coaches, parents, and spectators can take.

With a strong and **united** community, the HNA is committed to provide an inclusive and positive environment through netball.



UMPIRES/OFFICIALS

Umpires and Officials should always adhere to the following code of conduct.

- ❖ At all times work with coaches, scorers, and other officials to ensure the game runs smoothly and safely.
- ❖ Treat all players, coaches and other officials with respect and consideration.
- ❖ Refrain from using inappropriate language at all times on and off the court.
- ❖ Encourage and commend good behaviour and sportsmanship.
- ❖ Report all discrimination, harassment, abuse, and bullying, don't allow these behaviours to persist.
- ❖ If approached by a player (captain) or coach for clarification on a decision or ruling, present clear and honest responses. If you do not know the answer you must make every effort to find the answer.
- ❖ Do not encourage or become part of any form of discrimination.
- ❖ Umpires are expected to arrive to games in a timely manner, in the correct uniform and in appropriate condition to conduct their duties and represent the association.

Disciplinary actions for breach

If umpires fail to adhere to the code of conduct, this will be first addressed by the Hills Umpiring Committee and if required, referred to the Hills Netball Association Board for disciplinary action.

With a strong and **united** community, the HNA is committed to provide an inclusive and positive environment through netball.



PLAYERS

Players should always adhere to the following code of conduct.

- ❖ Players are expected to respect and accept an umpire's decision, without making any overtly verbal or animated objections that may disrupt or hinder the flow of the game.
- ❖ Only during quarter breaks may a team captain or coach (9 & Under and 11 & Under grades only) approach the umpires to clarify a ruling.
- ❖ Players should not make any statements of abuse towards an umpire; this includes but is not limited to any discriminative remarks, performance, or any bias accusations.
- ❖ Players must not use any offensive language, which can be heard by other players, spectators, or officials.

Disciplinary actions for breach

Umpires should adhere to Netball Australia's Game Management protocols to discipline a player or coach for any breaches to the code of conduct.

- ❖ CAUTION
- ❖ OFFICIAL WARNING
- ❖ SUSPENSION
- ❖ ORDER OFF

Where a number of players or the entire team is not adhering to the expected on-court conduct an umpire may issue a warning to the entire team.

With a strong and **united** community, the HNA is committed to provide an inclusive and positive environment through netball.



COACHES

Coaches should always adhere to the following code of conduct.

- ❖ Coaches are expected to respect and accept an umpire's decision, without making any overtly verbal or animated objections.
- ❖ Coaches (9 & Under and 11 & Under grades only) must wait for the quarter breaks to approach the umpires to clarify a ruling. They do not address an umpire during play or short stoppages.
- ❖ Coaches must limit their questioning of umpires to the rules or bylaw interpretations.
- ❖ If a coach is not satisfied with an umpire's decision, he/she may not stay and argue the point. He/she may seek clarification, post-match from another umpire regarding the interpretation of the rule, the HNA Umpire Sub-Committee via a written request or to the HNA Management Board via a written request.
- ❖ Coaches should not make any statements of abuse towards an umpire; this includes but is not limited to any discriminative remarks, performance, or any bias accusations.
- ❖ Coaches must not use any offensive language, which can be heard by other players, spectators, or officials.
- ❖ Coaches are expected to assist an umpire's request to address the conduct of players or spectators. In the case of spectators, the coach shall not be penalised if she/he is unable to control the spectator's behaviour.

Disciplinary actions for breach

- ❖ The umpire may stop play and warn the coach of his/her breach of the code.
- ❖ Advise the other umpire of the warning.
- ❖ For continuous breach of code an on-court penalty shall be invoked.
- ❖ If a penalty has been awarded against a coach an official incident report may be completed and sent to the HNA Management Board.

With a strong and **united** community, the HNA is committed to provide an inclusive and positive environment through netball.



PARENTS & SPECTATORS

Parents & Spectators should always adhere to the following code of conduct.

- ❖ Young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
- ❖ All good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams should be recognised and applauded. Show respect for your teams' opponents.
- ❖ Respect the decision of officials and teach those around you to do the same.
- ❖ Never abuse or ridicule a player or umpire for making a mistake. Encourage players to follow the rules and the official's decisions.
- ❖ Do not encourage violence of any form by anyone, including other spectators, coaches, players, or officials.
- ❖ Do not use any offensive or abusive language towards any player, coach, spectator or official.
- ❖ Do not discriminate against any player; respect their rights to play the sport.

Disciplinary actions for breach

For any breach of the spectator's code of conduct the umpires should follow the following procedure.

- ❖ Inform the coach of the spectator's team of the breach. At this point the coach, according to the code of conduct, must address the behaviour.
- ❖ The umpire may stop play and warn the offender that continuation of the behaviour may result in an official complaint to the HNA Management Board.
- ❖ In extreme circumstances the umpire may stop play until the offender has been removed from the grounds.

With a strong and **united** community, the HNA is committed to provide an inclusive and positive environment through netball.