



## Canford Sport – Spectator Behaviour

Watching your child compete in a sports match should be a positive and happy experience for both parents and players. Support from families and friends can be a tremendous asset to the match day experience and we welcome them at all our sports fixtures.

However, a huge amount of media attention, academic literature and governing body reviews have emerged in recent years and stories of abusive language and even incidents of physical confrontations have unfortunately increased across the country. While not commonplace at Canford, there have been a small number of instances of occasional negativity directed at referees, staff and even the players themselves in the past.

It is important that there is a clear policy in place to ensure that the match experience is a good one for spectators, players, coaches, officials and staff alike. The following code of conduct applies to all supporters either visiting Canford for a match, or when supporting one of our teams at an away fixture:

- Always respect the match officials' decisions.
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided).
- Encourage all players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials.
- Encourage all players in a positive way, irrespective of their ability. Shouting at players during a match is not acceptable.
- Do not criticise a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning.
- Do not engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour. Any incidents should be reported to a member of Canford staff, ideally after the match or immediately if the behaviour is deemed detrimental to the game or to other supporters' enjoyment.
- Do not offer unsolicited advice, instruction, or commands to the coach and / or players.
- Do not offer 'critical encouragement' which involves a positive message delivered in a negative, disapproving tone. Comments such as 'You can do better than that' are not acceptable.
- Do not express negative comments about other members of the team you are supporting, or about the opposition.
- Never argue with opposition supporters.
- Do not express anger if the team you are supporting is losing, or if you do not agree with a referee decision.
- Do not blame a loss on the referee / umpire.
- Do not challenge a member of staff during or immediately after a match. Take 24-48 hours to reflect. If you still feel strongly that you would like to discuss an issue, please contact either the head of the respective sport, or the Director of Sport to arrange a telephone call or meeting.

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