Purpose
The purpose of the code of behaviour is to ensure sport is fun for everyone involved and that children get the maximum benefit from participating in sport. This Code of Conduct is for all students at school participating in PE Lessons and school carnivals. It is also for students who represent Saints Peter and Paul Primary School in sport at events such as District or ACT Carnivals, Catholic Schools Netball and Soccer Carnivals or the Boorowa Combined Sports Carnival. This is not for regular weekend sport such as football, netball or softball. Although the children are playing under the Saints Peter and Paul banner they will need to adhere to the club and their association’s Code of Conduct. With regard to weekend sport, all parents need to be aware that it is their responsibility for the duty of care of the children in any competitions. Teachers will not be present nor is the school responsible for such duty.

Procedure
Code of Behaviour for a Player

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree with a decision, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team’s performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a ‘good sport’. Applaud all good plays, whether they are from your team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
- Play for the fun of it and not just for parents or for coaches. Remember, winning isn’t everything.

Code of Behaviour for an Official:

- Teach your players to follow the rules.
- Remember that students play for pleasure and that winning is only part of the fun. Don’t over-emphasise awards.
- Compliment and encourage all participants. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing.
- Be reasonable in your demands on young players’ time, energy and enthusiasm.
• Give all students equal opportunities to participate. Avoid over-playing talented players. The ‘average’ player needs and deserves equal playing time.
• Develop team respect for the ability of opponents and for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
• Censure unsporting behaviour.
• Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than specific errors.
• Be consistent when making decisions.
• Ensure that everyone involved in junior sport emphasises fair play; not winning at all costs.
• Be a ‘good sport’ yourself. Actions speak louder than words.

**Code of Behaviour for Parents and Spectators**

• Encourage students to follow the rules.
• Remember that students play for their enjoyment, not yours.
• Encourage students to participate, do not force them.
• Focus on the student’s efforts, rather than winning and losing.
• Compliment and encourage all participants. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing.
• Be a good sport yourself. Remember that children learn by example.
• Support all efforts to remove unsporting behaviour from sport.
• Show appreciation of volunteer officials. Without them, the students could not participate.

**Upholding the Code of Conduct**

We all want students to reach their full potential. To ensure they participate in the best environment possible, a clearly defined procedure is necessary to address any breaches of the Code of Conduct.

**What Constitutes a Breach of the Code of Conduct?**

Poor sporting behaviour that breaches the Code is repeated, unreasonable behaviour directed toward players, officials or spectators that has the potential to victimise, humiliate, undermine or threaten or generally reduce the enjoyment of the game. According to this definition, a single incident of poor sporting behaviour does not constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct. However, single incidents should not be ignored or condoned.

Poor sporting behaviour is not always intentional. Sometimes, people do not realise that their behaviour can be harmful to others.

The following types of behaviour, where repeated or occurring as a pattern of behaviour, could be considered poor sporting behaviour and a breach of the Code of Conduct:

• Verbal abuse
• Personal insults and name calling
• Sarcasm and ridicule
• Constant negative criticism
• Instilling fear.

**Actual or threatened violence, even as a single incident, is considered a serious breach of the Code.**
Responding to Poor Sporting Behaviour:

Complaints Procedure

Each situation, where a complaint has been made, will be different; meaning that different responses may be appropriate. However, a number of principles underpin all responses:

- All reports are treated seriously
- All complaints should be promptly acted upon
- There should be an element of neutrality if the procedure is formal
- The complaints procedure should be communicated clearly to everyone involved
- All complaints are treated confidentially
- Formal processes are documented
- Natural justice underpins the whole process (that is, the person whom the complaint is made against, is innocent until the complaint is proven and he or she must be given the chance to explain his or her version of events).

Resolution Process

The resolution process should be flexible and enable a choice, or a course of actions, to be undertaken which specifically suit each complaint. Below are two approaches that can be used on their own or as a step-by-step approach to a resolution.

1. Direct Approach

The direct approach involves a clear and polite request for the behaviour to stop. Examples of situations in which this approach can be useful include:

- A coach approaches a parent to be more positive when supporting a team
- A coach speaks to a player privately to stop ‘making faces’ at the umpire when a decision goes against their team
- A parent speaks to a coach about being more encouraging, rather than critical, when addressing the team during breaks.

2. Indirect Approach

The parties involved in a complaint (i.e. the person making the complaint and the person they are making the complaint against) meet, either together or separately depending on the situation, with the Coordinator to resolve the issue. This approach would be appropriate where:

- The complaint is a serious one
- The person making the complaint does not feel comfortable using the direct approach; or
  - The direct approach has not worked.

The third party will be the Coordinator. The Coordinator must explain the process clearly to both parties and document the outcome of the resolution process.

As these sports are usually one-off carnivals examples of actions that may be taken (if the complaint is proven) may include:

- Non-participation at the next sporting event that the student wishes to participate in.
- A coach not being asked to assist at the next carnival.