

Rowing Victoria Code of Conduct

Rowing Victoria (RV) adopted the new Sport Integrity Australia Member Protection Policy (MPP) in July 2022. This MPP builds on previous work and aims to ensure that we all act in a respectful and fair manner. It is important to note that sanctions can apply through breaches of the MPP, and Code of Conduct and we therefore would like to articulate what is expected while participating in the below “Code of Behaviour” document.

This Code of Behaviour is underpinned by the following core values.

- To act within the rules and spirit of our sport.
- To display respect and courtesy towards everyone involved in our sport and prevent discrimination and harassment.
- To prioritise the safety and well-being of children and young people involved in our sport.
- To encourage and support opportunities for participation in all aspects of our sport.

This Code of Behaviour aims to set out the minimum standards for anyone involved in sport. It should apply when competing, training or taking part in club-sanctioned activities.

- Act within the rules and spirit of your rowing.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the rowing.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials at regattas
- Respect the leadership of coaches and administrators.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Display appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

Athletes

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment, skill improvement and benefit.
- Play by the rules - the rules of your club and the laws of the sport and show respect for other athletes, coaches and officials.
- Do not use ugly remarks based on race, religion, cultural background, gender, sexuality, appearance, disability or ability – you'll let down your coach, team-mates and family if you do – & many such comments are now illegal.
- Never argue with an umpire or other official – without our Umpires, you can't compete.
- Control your temper - verbal abuse of Umpires and Officials and sledging other athletes doesn't help you enjoy or win any race.
- Be a team player – It's a team sport, treat it that way.
- Treat all competitors as you would like to be treated – fairly.
- Co-operate with your coach, the umpires and team-mates.

Officials

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Ensure all athletes are included and can participate, regardless of their race, religion, cultural background, gender, sexuality, appearance, disability or ability.
- Be consistent, impartial and objective when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for other players and officials.

Administrators

- Ensure quality supervision and instruction for players.
- Support coaches and officials to improve their skills and competencies.
- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct club responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.

Coaches

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Help each person (athlete, official, etc.) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young players.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be respectful of an Officials role at a regatta

Parents & Spectators

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy their sport.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Encourage your child to participate, do their best and have fun.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule losses or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition - supporters are there to support not downgrade
- Help out the coach or officials at training and regattas, where possible.
- Model appropriate behaviour, including respect for other players and officials.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Respect the effort and performances of players and officials.
- Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time
- Reject the use of harassment, bullying or violence in any form, whether by other spectators, coaches, officials or athletes.