The Code of Conduct has been created for teachers, coaches, match officials/leaders, pupils, parents and spectators to refer to when engaged with School Games competitions and festivals.

Teachers / Coaches
1. Schools have a responsibility to ensure that teachers, parents, hired professional coaches, adult volunteers and young leaders use appropriate language and behaviour when working with young people and commit fully to the spirit of the games and this code of practice.
2. Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by suitably qualified and competent Teachers/Coaches capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and conduct during competition.
3. Teach players that the rules/laws of the game are for their own safety and should be respected at all times.
4. Ensure that players respect the ability of their opponents and the judgement of match officials.
5. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach young people to do likewise.
6. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, teachers, coaches, officials or players.
7. Understand that young people play for fun and enjoyment and winning is only part of this.
8. Never ridicule or shout at children for making mistakes or losing a competition.

Participants/Pupils
1. Co-operate with teachers, coaches, volunteers, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no game.
2. Respect the referee/umpire/officials’ decisions and the rules of the game.
3. Treat all people fairly and with respect regardless of race, background, religious beliefs or gender.
4. Control your temper both on and off the playing area.
5. The use of bad language, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent is not permitted in any School Games Competition.

Parent/Spectators
1. Recognise the value and importance of teachers, volunteer coaches and officials. They give their time and resources to provide school sport opportunities and deserve support.
2. Respect the official’s decision and teach young people to do likewise.
3. Show respect for your team’s opponents. Without them there would be no game.
4. Encourage players to play according to the rules and the official’s decision, remember they are volunteers who give up their time to provide the opportunity for your children.
5. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches, teachers or officials.
6. Applaud good performance and effort by your team and the opponents. Congratulate both teams upon their performance regardless of the game’s outcome.
7. Never ridicule or criticise young people for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
8. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, teachers, officials or players.
9. Young people play school sport for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only.

Please remember, no one is perfect. Even at the highest level mistakes are made. Before doing or saying anything, think ‘how would I feel if I was the person who made the mistake? How would I want to be spoken to?’

Failure to follow this code of conduct could result in you being asked to leave a School Games Competition.