Parents Code of Behaviour

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Parents Code of Behaviour is to establish clear expectations for parents and guardians supporting children participating in cricket with Everton Districts Cricket Club (EDCC).

EDCC wants junior cricket to provide a positive, safe and enjoyable environment where children can develop their skills, confidence, sportsmanship and love of the game.

Parents and guardians play an important role in creating that environment through their behaviour, encouragement and example.

2. Scope

This Code applies to parents, guardians and other adults supporting junior players participating in EDCC matches, training sessions, club activities and other cricket-related events.

This Code should be read alongside the broader EDCC Code of Conduct and any applicable competition or association codes of behaviour.

3. Policy

3.1. Keep Junior Cricket About the Players

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Remember that children participate in organised sport primarily for their own enjoyment and development.
- Encourage participation, enjoyment and improvement rather than focusing solely on results.
- Allow coaches, team managers and players to perform their respective roles without unnecessary interference.
- Support children regardless of their ability, performance or the result of a match.

3.2. Encourage Effort and Sportsmanship

Parents and guardians should:

- Encourage children to play by the rules and within the spirit of cricket.

- Reinforce that honest effort, improvement and teamwork are as important as winning.
- Help children learn to accept both victory and defeat with good sportsmanship.
- Encourage children to learn from setbacks and continue developing their skills.
- Never ridicule, yell at or belittle a child for making a mistake or losing a match.

3.3. Lead by Example

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Demonstrate the behaviour and sportsmanship expected of junior players.
- Applaud good cricket by both EDCC and opposition players.
- Treat players, coaches, volunteers, officials, other parents and spectators with respect.
- Avoid abusive, intimidating, discriminatory or aggressive language or behaviour.
- Support efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sport.

3.4. Respect for Umpires and Officials

Parents and guardians must:

- Respect the decisions of umpires and other match officials.
- Not publicly abuse, ridicule or question the honesty or integrity of an official.
- Avoid directing inappropriate comments or criticism towards officials from the boundary.
- Raise legitimate concerns through the appropriate coach, team manager or club process rather than confronting an official.

3.5. Field of Play

Parents, guardians and spectators are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time during a match or training activity unless specifically requested or authorised by an EDCC coach, team manager, match official or other authorised club representative.

Where assistance is required due to an injury, emergency or other incident on the field, parents and guardians must allow coaches, team officials or match officials to manage the situation and provide direction.

3.6. Supporting Coaches and Team Officials

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Respect the roles and responsibilities of coaches, team managers and other volunteers.

- Avoid coaching or directing players from the boundary where doing so conflicts with instructions provided by the team's coach or manager.
- Raise questions or concerns respectfully and at an appropriate time.
- Support a positive team environment for all players, not only their own child.

3.7. Breaches of this Code

Concerns regarding parent or guardian behaviour should be raised with the relevant coach, team manager or EDCC Committee member as appropriate.

Significant or repeated breaches may be referred to the EDCC Committee and addressed in accordance with the club's Code of Conduct, rules, policies and applicable competition requirements.

Where behaviour presents an immediate safety concern, appropriate action may be taken to protect players, officials, volunteers and other participants.

Policy Details

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1. EDCC Committee

- Approve this policy and any material changes to it.
- Ensure the policy remains appropriate for the club and is reviewed when required.
- Support consistent application of the policy across Everton Districts Cricket Club.
- Address significant breaches or concerns in accordance with the club's rules, policies and procedures.

4.2. Parents and Guardians

- Understand and comply with this Code while supporting junior players participating in EDCC activities.
- Support the club, coaches and team officials in creating a positive environment for junior cricket.
- Raise questions or concerns through an appropriate coach, team manager or EDCC Committee member.