AGSV Participant Code of Conduct

Last Review: September 2026	**Constructed by:** AGSV Staff
Next Review: September 2027	**Approval Required:** Board Motion
	Board Sign Off Date: September 2026

1. Statement of Context and Purpose

The Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (AGSV) provides sport activities as an important part of the educational experience of students. AGSV sport promotes enjoyment, participation, personal growth, teamwork, leadership, respectful competition and positive relationships between schools.

While competition and achievement are valued, they are not to override the broader educational purpose of AGSV sport. The pursuit of success should be consistent with safety, respect, integrity, inclusion, fairness, sporting behaviour and the wellbeing of young people.

This Code sets out the standards of conduct expected of all people involved in AGSV sport and activities.

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2. Application

This Code applies to all participants in AGSV activities, including:

- students
- employees
- contractors
- coaches
- parents and carers
- match officials and umpires
- spectators
- volunteers; and

- any other person involved in, supporting or attending an AGSV activity.

This Code applies to all AGSV activities, including competitions, fixtures, training sessions, representative programs, meetings, presentations, award events, AGSV school-hosted activities, digital communications and any conduct connected with AGSV sport.

Participants are also expected to comply with relevant AGSV policies, school policies, competition rules, venue requirements, child safety obligations and the lawful and reasonable directions of appointed officials, school representatives and AGSV representatives.

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3. Reference Points / Background Papers

- Worker Screening Act (Vic);
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic);
- DHS Child Safe Standards Toolkit: Resource 3 Code of Conduct;
- AGSV School codes of conduct
- An Overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards;
- Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Procedure;
- Social Media, Networking and Image Capture Policy; and
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy.

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3. AGSV Code of Conduct Principles

3.1 Educational Purpose of Sport

AGSV sport exists to support the education and development of young people. Participants are to contribute to sporting environments that develop:

- character
- confidence
- resilience
- teamwork
- leadership
- responsibility
- resilience
- respect
- fairplay

- effort
- humility; and
- respect.

Winning is a legitimate part of competitive sport, but it should not come at the expense of safety, fairness, inclusion, integrity or the positive development of students.

3.2 Safety and Child Safety

The safety of students is a fundamental expectation in all AGSV activities. Participants must support safe environments for students, staff, officials, spectators and volunteers. AGSV schools are committed to child safety and to the protection of children from harm. Participants must comply with:

- AGSV child safety policies and procedures
- relevant school child safety policies
- mandatory reporting obligations; and
- all applicable child safeguarding responsibilities.

3.3 Respect

All participants must treat others with dignity, courtesy and respect. This includes respect for students, opponents, teammates, coaches, staff, officials, spectators, volunteers, host schools and visiting schools. Respectful conduct is expected before, during and after AGSV activities.

3.4 Inclusion and Belonging

AGSV sport should provide opportunities for people to participate, contribute and develop in an environment that is welcoming and inclusive. Participants must contribute to an environment where all people are treated fairly and with dignity. Discrimination, bullying, harassment, vilification, victimisation or exclusion on the basis of personal attributes, background, identity, ability or belief is not acceptable.

3.5 Sporting Behaviour

Participants are expected to uphold the spirit of good sporting behaviour at all times. This includes playing fairly, accepting results with respect, acknowledging good performance, showing humility in success, maintaining dignity in disappointment and contributing to positive relationships between schools.

3.6 Fairness, Integrity and Compliance

Participants must act honestly, fairly and with integrity. Participants are expected to understand and comply with AGSV competition rules and regulations, follow the laws or rules of the relevant sport, respect the spirit of competition, comply with reasonable directions and avoid conduct that compromises the integrity, fairness or reputation of AGSV sport.

3.7 Respect for Match Officials

Match officials, umpires and referees play an essential role in AGSV sport and must be respected. Participants must not abuse, intimidate, ridicule, harass, threaten or publicly criticise match officials. This applies in person, from the sideline, after a match, through digital platforms or in any other setting connected with AGSV sport. Concerns about officiating are to be managed through appropriate school or AGSV processes.

3.8 Positive Participation and Enjoyment

AGSV sport is to be a positive experience for students and the broader school community. Participants should contribute to an environment that encourages enjoyment, learning, effort, improvement, respectful competition and personal growth.

3.9 Respect for Opposing Schools and Communities

AGSV sport relies on strong and respectful relationships between member schools. Participants must show courtesy towards opposing teams, visiting schools, host schools, staff, coaches, officials, students, parents and spectators. Conduct that demeans, provokes, ridicules or disrespects another school or its community is not acceptable.

3.10 Responsible Digital Conduct

The standards in this Code apply to both in-person and online conduct. Participants must use digital platforms, social media, messaging services, images, video and other digital content responsibly when connected with AGSV activities in line with any AGSV policies that cover social media, networking and image capture. Participants must not post or share abusive, discriminatory, humiliating, threatening, misleading or inappropriate content; use digital platforms to ridicule, criticise or abuse students, opponents, officials, staff, coaches, spectators, schools or AGSV; share images, recordings or other content inconsistently with AGSV or school policies; post content likely to bring a student, school, official, activity or competition into disrepute; or share photos, video or livestream content in breach of child safety, privacy, consent, photography or filming requirements. Students, parents or participants are subject to the AGSV and/or school disciplinary process for any breaches of this section

4. Expected Standards of Conduct

All participants are expected to:

1. Act safely and take reasonable care for the safety of others.
2. Treat all people with dignity, courtesy and respect.
3. Promote inclusion, belonging and fair participation.
4. Support the educational purpose of AGSV sport.
5. Respect match officials, their role and their decisions.
6. Respect opponents, teammates, coaches, staff, spectators and volunteers.
7. Follow the rules, spirit and integrity of competition.
8. Comply with AGSV policies, school policies, venue requirements and competition rules.
9. Use digital platforms, images and video responsibly.
10. Represent their school and AGSV in a positive and respectful manner.
11. Contribute to an environment where sport is enjoyable, safe and developmentally valuable for students.
12. Use their best efforts in sporting activities to the best of a student's ability.

5. Unacceptable Conduct

The following conduct is unacceptable at AGSV activities or in connection with AGSV sport:

- Abuse, intimidation, harassment, bullying or threatening behaviour.
- Aggressive, violent or unsafe conduct.
- Discrimination, vilification, victimisation or exclusion.
- Humiliating, demeaning or ridiculing another person.
- Unsporting behaviour.
- Public criticism or personal abuse of match officials.
- Sideline behaviour that interferes with the proper conduct of a match.
- Conduct that impedes players, coaches, officials or competition processes.

- Damage to venues, equipment or property.
- Sharing digital content that is abusive, discriminatory, humiliating, unsafe or inconsistent with AGSV or school policy.
- Online abuse or inappropriate commentary about students, staff, coaches, officials, spectators, schools or AGSV.
- Not use abusive, discriminatory, humiliating, threatening, misleading or inappropriate language; not ridicule, criticise or abuse students by using inappropriate or abusive language including the use language that is profane, obscene or considered an expletive.
- Conduct that brings an AGSV school, AGSV activity or AGSV competition into disrepute.
- Any conduct that contravenes any AGSV policy, regulation, decisions or directives

This list is not exhaustive. Conduct may be considered unacceptable where it is inconsistent with the purpose, principles or expectations of this Code.

6. Spectator and Parent Conduct

Parents, carers and spectators play an important role in supporting positive student experiences in AGSV sport. These people must encourage students positively, respect coaches, staff and officials, avoid sideline coaching that conflicts with school coaching or disrupts play, avoid criticism or abuse, allow students to participate without undue pressure, comply with directions and support an environment where the sporting experience belongs primarily to the students.

Spectator misconduct is not to be tolerated. Where a spectator behaves in a manner inconsistent with this Code, they may be directed to cease the behaviour, move location or leave the venue. Serious or repeated misconduct may be referred to the relevant school and/or AGSV for further action. A school may restrict a spectator's attendance at future AGSV activities where appropriate.

7. Breaches of the Code

Breaches of this Code may be referred to AGSV and/or the relevant school. Matters involving a student, parent, carer, staff member, coach, volunteer or spectator will generally be managed by the relevant school in accordance with its policies, procedures and responsibilities. AGSV may consider matters in accordance with its competition rules, governance arrangements and any relevant AGSV policies.

Possible responses may include a direction to stop the behaviour, removal from an activity or venue, referral to the relevant school, restriction from future AGSV activities, action under school policies or AGSV processes, or referral to an appropriate external authority where required.

Where a matter involves child safety, mandatory reporting, reportable conduct, privacy, discrimination, harassment, violence or other legal obligations, it must be handled in accordance with relevant AGSV policies, school policies and applicable laws.

8. Commitment

By participating in AGSV activities, all participants are expected to uphold this Code and contribute positively to the safety, reputation, values and educational objectives of AGSV sport.

AGSV sport is at its best when competition is spirited, conduct is respectful, students are safe, officials are supported, schools work together and all participants recognise that the experience of young people is more important than the result.