**School Staff: Code of Conduct**

Thank you for participating in a GSSP event! We hope you and your team have a great time. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for your behaviour and responsibilities to ensure a safe, positive, and fun experience for everyone, especially the children participating.

1. **Rules and Format**

* **Understanding the event:** Familiarise yourself and your team members with the rules and format of the event BEFORE arrival. This information will be available in the event programme and pre-event communication.
* **Seek Clarification:** If you are unsure about anything (rules, instructions, etc.), ask a member of GSSP staff.
* **Encourage fair play:** Encourage participants to play according to the rules and the official’s decisions. This includes game rules, team composition (e.g., boy/girl splits), substitutions, and adherence to any competition regulations.

1. **Respect and Responsibility**
2. **Towards Officials, Staff & Participants**

* **Respect and accept decisions:** The decision of the referees and officials will be final. Respect these decisions, even if you disagree. Engage in respectful dialogue with officials if clarification is needed but avoid challenging their authority publicly. If you consider their actions to be a health and safety concern, speak to a member of GSSP staff.
* **Be polite and courteous:** Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by using respectful language and tone. Refrain from aggressive or abusive language, harassment, or intimidation towards players, teachers, officials, GSSP staff, or volunteers.
* **Be considerate:** Be mindful that officials are often young leaders (ages 12 – 18) gaining valuable experience. Offer them encouragement and support in their development.

1. **Whilst Competing**

* **Sportsmanship:** Ensure behaviour is consistent with principles of good sporting conduct. This includes encouraging fair play, respecting others and having a positive attitude regardless of outcome.
* **Maintain a professional manner:** Encourage healthy competition but also emphasise the value of participation, teamwork, and personal growth. Demonstrate respect, self-control, and emotional maturity. Model appropriate behaviour for players and spectators.

1. **Event timings**

* **Good timekeeping:** Teams are expected to arrive on time for the start of the event. This includes allowing time to register, allocate kit/equipment and the pre-event briefing. It is also expected that teams are on the correct court/pitch in time for matches starting.
* **Attendance Expectations:** Participants are respectfully requested to remain for the duration of the event, including presentations and closing ceremonies. Early departures are strongly discouraged and should only occur with the express consent of the event organisers, as such departures can be disheartening for participating children.

1. **Health and Safety**

* **Report Concerns Immediately:** If you see or hear *anything* that makes you feel uncomfortable, worried, or that you think might be a risk to a child's safety or well-being, report it *immediately* to a member of GSSP staff during the event.
* **Equipment and Venue Safety:**
  + Ensure your team is using the equipment and the venue responsibly and safely. (This includes use of the space and equipment on the sidelines during rest periods).
  + Report any concerns of unsafe equipment, facilities or any other potential hazards to a member of GSSP staff immediately.

1. **Spectators**

**Most GSSP events have a no-spectator policy which is communicated with schools during the event entry process**.

* **Address and communicate with spectators:** If spectators associated with your school attempt to attend an event where a ‘no spectator’ policy is in place, we will ask that you support GSSP to address this. This will typically involve asking spectators to vacate the venue.

1. **Photography**

* Ensure you are aware of the GSSP policy regarding photography and that you adhere to this at all times. If you are unsure, please ask a member of GSSP staff for clarification.
* Refrain from posting any inappropriate content related to the event on social media, including comments that could be considered offensive or disrespectful.

**5. Agreement**

* By attending this event with your team, you agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.
* Failure to follow this Code may result in you being asked to leave the event and could affect your participation in future events.
* Serious breaches of the code of conduct will be reported to the appropriate authorities, including your school's safeguarding lead.