



Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport
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NO TO VIOLENCE IN SPORT!

On any given weekend, a thousand to two-thousand school and club rugby games are played. Inevitably, sometimes one game gets ugly, and then this incident is highlighted and result in all youth rugby clubs are being painted with one brush – we want to reject this.

Having said this, DCAS wants to categorically state that we view one incident of violence in sport and on the rugby field in particular as one too many.

Western Province Rugby Youth Department has clear guidelines and systems in place, which govern the conduct of schools and youth clubs. The guidelines include behavioral guidelines for coaches, administrators, players, supporters and spectators.

A BLUEPRINT ON BEHAVIOUR

Children / Young players: must be aware and understand that abuse does take place in sport and they must have channels to report to coaches and others working within the game.

Good coaches: recognize the importance of fun; behave with dignity; respect all referees and decisions; provide positive, constructive, encouraging feedback to young players.

Good parents: ensure child is fully involved; where appropriate assist coaches with supervision; be involved with school; share concerns with the officials.

Good players: play because you want, not to please coaches or your parents; be a sportsman – win or loose; respect and accept the referees' decision; verbal or physical abuse of team-mates and opponents is NOT ACCEPTABLE; respect everyone involved in the game.

Good spectators: acknowledge good performances of all; respect match officials' decisions; never verbally abuse young players, officials, coaches or fellow spectators; if you want to shout, shout "for" and not "at" the players.

Good match officials: recognize safety is important; explain decisions; always penalize foul play; show empathy for age of youngsters; be consistent and objective; ensure that abuse from players, coaches and spectators is dealt with by officials immediately.