

sport rage

An information kit
for ground officials



play your part. **stamp out**
ugly sporting behaviour

www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/sportrage





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Ground official **job description**

Roles and responsibilities

- Agree to be bound by club rules/codes of conduct
- Make yourself known to the referee/umpire and team coaches before the sport begins
- Be visible at all times during the event
- Give warnings and enforce compliance of codes of conduct with participants, spectators, club officials and coaches
- Evict persons displaying inappropriate behaviour from venue if inappropriate behaviour continues after warning (where the club is in a position to control ground entry)
- Notify police in the event of criminal conduct
- Complete incident reports where necessary.

When sport rage incidents occur and tempers flare, it can be very difficult to approach people. Here are some tips to help you deal with these tricky situations:

Tips for conflict resolution

- Receive other people's comments without interruption
- Speak pleasantly – be aware of the tone of your voice and the type of language you use
- Use non-aggressive body language and facial expressions (eg: don't point your finger, don't stand with your hands on your hips)
- Don't become emotionally involved
- Be patient
- Stay calm no matter what the person says or does
- If the conflict turns physical, don't get involved – call the police immediately
- Look for signs of the situation getting out of hand (eg; tension growing on the sideline) and act early before it reaches melting point.



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Dealing with sport rage

Despite everyone's best intentions, sport rage incidents sometimes occur. While it is mainly the responsibility of club officials to deal with incidents, it is important that everyone understands and supports the process. Here are some of the steps that can be taken, depending on the seriousness of the incident.

■ **Reporting inappropriate behaviour** – *Responsibility of everyone*

Behaviour that contravenes the codes of conduct should be reported to the ground official. Any person who is unsure who the ground official is should report the incident to a club committee member.

■ **Approaching the offender** – *Responsibility of the ground official / club committee*

Only the ground official should approach the offender – this prevents the situation escalating.

■ **Issuing warnings** – *Responsibility of the club committee / ground official*

The first time a person breaches a code of conduct, they might be issued with a warning. The person may not be aware that their behaviour is unacceptable and should be notified of club rules.

■ **Taking disciplinary action** – *Responsibility of the club committee*

If the conduct is repeated or of a serious nature, the club committee should consider taking disciplinary action in accordance with its rules. This might result in counselling, suspension or expulsion.

■ **Removing people from the field of play or venue** – *Responsibility of the ground official / club committee*

The referee/umpire should communicate directly and immediately with the ground official to remove a person from the field. If the club is in a position to control ground entry, it will be able to evict persons from the ground. Where attendance is not controlled, clubs can request offenders leave the venue, or otherwise can discipline the person for breach of the code of conduct.

■ **Suspending play** – *Responsibility of the referee / umpire*

The referee/umpire may suspend play and refuse to restart until appropriate action has been taken. They may request that a person is removed from the sideline and, in serious cases, abandon the game altogether.

■ **Involving the police** – *Responsibility of the ground official / club committee*

If you feel the behaviour of an individual constitutes a criminal act the police should be notified immediately by the ground official. While it is lawful for a club to detain a person who has committed a criminal offence until the police arrive, it is recommended that this is only done as a last resort. Club officials are able to exercise reasonable force in detaining a person who has committed a criminal offence until the police arrive, but this should not be disproportionate to the conduct of the offender.

Incident report

Ground official details

Surname: _____ First name: _____

Club: _____

Residential address: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (work): _____ Date of report: _____

Incident details (circle type of incident)

- a) Breach of code of conduct
- b) Safety/facility breach
- c) Malicious damage
- d) Property/equipment damage
- e) Theft
- f) Other Details: _____

Location/Venue: _____ Time: _____

Give brief overview of incident: _____

Identify specific breach of code of conduct ie Coach item 9

- 1. Coach
- 2. Official/Administrator
- 3. Parent

Actions (reply required YES/NO)

Reported to Club: _____ Reported to Association: _____ Date/Time: _____

Office use only:

Status: CLOSED / OPEN: _____ Filed/Date: _____

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r u a sportrager?



r u a sideline rager?



r u a dummy spitter?

