**VMNL POLICY/PROCEDURE**

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| V05-02-05 | Spectator Behaviour Policy |

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| Purpose |  |
| Scope |  |
| Policy /  Procedure | Victorian Men’s Netball League (VMNL) is committed to providing a safe environment for participation in our sport. Angry, aggressive or other inappropriate behaviour by members, their families and friends and other participants or spectators while attending a VMNL match or event will not be tolerated.    These behaviours are outlined in our Codes of Conduct and By-laws and specifically include (but are not limited to):   * persistently challenging the decisions or performance of match officials; * using offensive, insulting or abusive language; * harassing or ridiculing players, team officials, match officials or other spectators; * making racist, religious, sexist or other inappropriate comments to players, team officials, match officials or other spectators; * any threatening behaviour or physical altercation between spectators and players, team officials, match officials or other spectators; and * putting undue pressure on children, berating them or putting down their performance.     Where officials are mentioned, the protection of this policy is considered by VMNL to extend to all team officials (coaches, managers, team trainers, physiotherapists etc), match officials (umpires, scorers etc), and VMNL officials (committee member, delegated volunteers).    VMNL encourages the reporting of misconduct and has empowered a Tribunal to properly investigate and deal with incidents of inappropriate behaviour. All reports should be submitted in writing to the Secretary. Committee members are required at every VMNL-sanctioned event to monitor behaviour and ensure the safety and security of all participants. Police may also be called where situations become unsafe or where illegal behaviour is occurring.    Parents or other spectators who are found to have behaved inappropriately may face disciplinary action. In cases where such persons are not registered members, action may be taken against those individuals, or teams to which the person has a relationship. Such penalties may include bonds, fines, loss of competition points, and/or suspensions of players, teams or exclusion from events.  This policy is not aimed at stifling or diminishing healthy supportive cheering or the ability of all participants to enjoy ‘the beautiful game’. A better standard of behaviour from all people will make the sport more enjoyable for players, officials and spectators alike.    **ALL participants and players should make their families, friends and other spectators aware that participation in our sport is a privilege which can be revoked due to the misconduct of spectators. Spectators who feel that they cannot refrain from the above behaviour should be asked not to attend.**  If you have any queries please contact us at:    111 St Elmo Rd,  Ivanhoe VIC 3079    vmnl.netball@gmail.com  [www.mensnetballvic.com.au](http://www.mensnetballvic.com.au/) |

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| Revised |  |
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