

Positive Behaviour Rule

School Sport Victoria's (SSV) **Positive Behaviour Rule** is for all levels of competition, at **district, division, region and state levels** for all football (soccer) and basketball competitions, **effective 2025**. This rule aims to promote a respectful and inclusive sporting environment by enforcing the **SSV Participant Behaviour Policy** for players, coaches, team officials, and spectators.

Poor behaviour includes, but is not limited to the following types of dissent:

- Disrespectfully calling out by any person including spectators
- Disputing calls: arguing with any person or decisions made by the referee
- Swearing

Sport Specific Rules

On-field penalties for poor behaviour and dissent:

- **Football (Soccer):** A corner kick is awarded against a team if a player, coach, team official, or spectator fails to adhere to the SSV Codes of Conduct (e.g., dissent, arguing, disrespectful comments, all yellow/red card offences).
- **Basketball:** A technical foul is awarded against a team for the same violations as per above.
- **Strict enforcement:** Referees, event conveners and SSV staff can apply the rule with zero tolerance for misconduct and dissent.
- **Officials may stop** and cancel matches at their discretion for ongoing poor behaviour.

Implementation process

1. **Violation occurs:** The official observes inappropriate behaviour.
2. **Stoppage in play:** The official waits for a suitable break in play.
3. **Notification:** The official calmly informs the offending team and explains the violation.
4. **Penalty applied:** The appropriate sport-specific rule is enforced.

Future rollout

- **2025:** Rule applies to football (soccer) and basketball statewide.
- **2025 Trial:** Australian Football and Netball at select events.
- **2026:** All other sports to implement the rule.



Visit the [SSV website](#) for more information.

Information to announce at the start of events

There is a new & important rule today to make this competition more respectful and inclusive.

The new SSV Positive Behaviour Rule will be strictly enforced in today's <<football/basketball>> competition. Poor behaviour—such as any dissent, arguing with referees, disrespectful comments, or swearing—will result in immediate on-field offences: a corner kick for Football (Soccer) /a technical foul for Basketball.

Importantly this includes any comments made by parents. Parents can support both teams in a positive way. Referees, SSV staff, and conveners have been instructed to enforce this rule, including stopping or cancelling matches if necessary.

We require all players, coaches, parents and spectators to uphold the SSV Participant Behaviour Policy so that everyone can enjoy a fair and positive sporting experience today. For more information on this rule, please see the [SSV website](#).

