



MEMBERSHIP CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

The Groot Drakenstein Games Club (GDGC) is a social club dedicated to promoting the interests of sport and the spirit of true sportsmanship. This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all members, officials, coaches, visitors, and parents/guardians to ensure a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Adherence to this Code is a mandatory condition of membership.

1. RESPECT

All members and participants must uphold the highest levels of courtesy, fairness, and respect.

1.1 Respect for Others

- Treat all players, officials, opposing teams, club staff, spectators, and guests with courtesy and respect at all times.
- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Refrain from and immediately report any form of offensive language, abuse, intimidation, harassment, racism, or bullying (verbal, physical, or online).
- Encourage fair play and celebrate the efforts and achievements of all participants, regardless of the result.

1.2 Respect for Officials and Decisions

- Accept and respect the judgment and decisions of all club officials, coaches, and match umpires/referees without argument or challenge.
- Address any concerns or complaints through the appropriate club channels and management structures.



1.3 Digital Conduct, Social Media, and WhatsApp

- **Extension of Club Premises:** Official Club WhatsApp groups and social media pages are considered extensions of the Club's physical premises; all standards of respect and non-abuse outlined in Section 1.1 apply equally to these platforms.
- **Prohibited Content:** Members must refrain from posting content on social media, WhatsApp or other platforms that is defamatory, brings the GDGC or the Operator into disrepute, or targets other members.
- **Grievance Protocol:** Official grievances, complaints, or criticisms regarding Club/Operator decisions must be handled through the formal reporting channels in Section 5 rather than public forums or WhatsApp groups.
- **Administrative Authority:** Group Administrators (appointed by the Operator) reserve the right to remove any post and/or suspend a member from a digital group if this Code is breached, pending further disciplinary review.

2. INTEGRITY AND GAME CONDUCT

Members participating in any sporting code must demonstrate integrity and commitment.

- **Fair Play:** Always play by the rules of the specific sporting code and the spirit of the game.
- **Commitment:** Attend all scheduled practices, matches, or events, or provide timely notice to the relevant coach or captain if unable to attend.
- **Prohibited Substances:** The promotion, use, or supply of prohibited performance-enhancing drugs or recreational illicit substances is strictly forbidden on club premises or in connection with club activities.

3. RESPONSIBILITY TO CLUB FACILITIES AND RULES

Members are responsible for the care of the club's property and must adhere to all established club policies.

- **Property Care:** Treat all club premises, equipment, fields, and facilities with care and respect. Report any damage immediately to a club official.
- **Alcohol Policy:** All alcohol consumed on club premises must be purchased from the onsite bar. The consumption of external liquor is not permitted unless specifically pre-arranged for a private function.
- **Cashless Site:** Respect the club's policy as a cashless environment.
- **Security:** Comply with any controlled access procedures or security searches of vehicles and bags.



- **Booking Etiquette:** Members must adhere to the booking systems established by the Operator. Repeated 'no-shows' or failure to cancel bookings within the required timeframe may result in a temporary suspension of booking privileges or team placements.

4. SPECIFIC RULES

4.1 Pool Use

- The onsite pool is used entirely at your own risk.
- Children under the age of 16 must be constantly supervised by a responsible adult.

4.2 Dogs

- All dogs brought onto club precincts must be kept on a lead at all times.
- Dogs are strictly prohibited inside the clubhouse building, on or immediately adjacent to the playing pitches/fields, in the swimming pool, and on the padel courts.
- Owners are solely responsible for immediately cleaning up and correctly disposing of their dog's waste in designated bins.
- Dogs displaying aggressive or unruly behaviour must be immediately removed from the premises.

4.3 Parental Responsibility

- Parents and guardians are held responsible for the conduct of their children while on club premises.
- Parents are responsible for any damage or accidents that may happen to their children whilst on the Club premises.

5. REPORTING VIOLATIONS AND MEMBER GRIEVANCES

The GDGC is committed to a fair and confidential process for addressing breaches and concerns.

5.1 Immediate Issues: For safety concerns or serious misconduct happening in real-time, alert the nearest Club Official, Coach, or Committee Member.

5.2 Formal Reporting (Code Breaches): Report incidents in writing to the Club Chairman (chairman@grootdrak.co.za) detailing your name, the nature of the violation, date/time/location, and witnesses



5.3 Member Grievance Procedure (Personal Disputes/Appeals)

- **Informal Resolution:** Attempt to resolve the matter with the relevant Coach or Operator representative first.
- **Formal Grievance:** If unresolved, submit a formal written grievance to the Club Chairman (chairman@grootdrak.co.za).
- **Mediation:** The Committee will appoint a neutral party to meet with the involved parties within 14 days.
- **Final Decision:** If mediation fails, the Committee will issue a final, binding written decision.

6. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- Failure to comply with this Code or the Club's Constitution may result in disciplinary action.
- **Immediate Suspension for Serious Offences:** Any member accused of violence, racism, or abuse will have their membership suspended immediately, pending a formal investigation.
- **Investigation & Sanctions:** Reports will be investigated confidentially. Actions may include a Verbal/Written Warning, Temporary Suspension, or Termination of Membership (Expulsion) as per the Club's Constitution.
- **Right of Appeal:** A member may appeal a sanction in writing to the Club Chairman within seven (7) days of notification. The Committee's decision on appeal shall be final.

7. DOCUMENT CONTROL & RATIFICATION

This document was formally reviewed and ratified for the 2026 Membership Cycle.

- **Date of Issue:** 1 January 2026
- **Club Chairman:** Sean Petzer
- **Board of Trustee Representative:** Morne Landman
- **Operator Representative:** Robert Walker