

## Start of Season: Key Messages for Players and Parents

### What is the Member Protection Policy (MPP)?

The MPP is relevant for everyone involved in a Maccabi sport – whether they're a player, parent, coach, official, spectator, opponent or administrator. Everyone has the right to be involved in sport and community activities, and for it to be a positive and safe environment. That also means everyone has the responsibility of doing everything they can to ensure that Maccabi is a fun and safe place to be.

### Respect

This is a big one for players and parents to remember. Everyone is here because they love the sport and everyone on and off the field deserves your respect.

**Players:** you are part of a team. Act like it. Show up, do your best, and celebrate all of the achievements and effort along the way. This includes training and games.

**Parents:** encourage your kids and encourage the team. Celebrate everyone's hard work and applaud both teams. Remember that the outcome of the game doesn't determine what kind of parent you are. It's more important for everyone to feel supported and encouraged, than to feel like winning is the only acceptable option.

### Respecting officials

Coaches and officials have a tough job and they do the best they can with the information they have. You may not always agree with them, but remember that they are using their knowledge of the sport to make what they think is the right decision. If you want to challenge something, you can talk to your coach at an appropriate break and they will tell you if it's okay to follow up and how best to do that. Always be respectful and polite to coaches (including your opponents') and officials – remember, they are someone's parent, child or sibling as well, and they do what they do because they love the sport and want you to be able to play. If you don't respect your officials they won't want to work with the club, and then there will be no game.

### Communication – what's okay?

- If you're communicating with someone from the club, or posting something on social media about the club, it's still part of the MPP, even though you're not at training
- Coaches should only be communicating about sport. If they're messaging you about anything else, let an adult know
- Your coaches aren't allowed to become your friends on social media – please don't ask them to be

- Think before you post – is what you're about to say polite? Is it something you would be okay with other people posting about you? Being mean online is still bullying

#### **If you find yourself in a situation you feel uncomfortable in –**

- If you're physically with a person, try to get away from them and/or get towards a group of people
- Whether it was something that happened at training, follow up messages or something else that made you feel uncomfortable – tell a trusted adult (your parent, compliance officer, your coach). No one will get angry at you for telling the truth.
- Your compliance officer and Maccabi will work with you to resolve the issue

#### **Where to go for more information**

- Your coach or team manager
- Your club compliance officer (name, email, phone)
- The MPP website