



CODE OF CONDUCT

The Australian Sports Commission has produced the following 'Codes of Behaviour', which have been adopted not only by football, but also by most sports in Victoria. These codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules of Competition and are outlined below.

General

It is vital that everyone involved in sporting activities, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport. This is particularly true at junior level. It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their Club, and that each Club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their Clubrooms. As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, FFV asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions. FFV asks all junior Club members and other participants, to support those principles and to actively follow the practices outlined below.

Players' Code of Conduct

- (a) Play by the Rules
 - (b) Do not argue with the Match Official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the Match Official during a break in play or after the Match is concluded
 - (c) Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport
 - (d) Maintain your focus and work hard for yourself and your team
 - (e) Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition
 - (f) Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player
 - (g) Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition
 - (h) Play for your own enjoyment, and not just to please parents and coaches
- 38
- (i) Remove all jewellery prior to training and Match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you
 - (j) Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time

Parents' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, and not yours

- (b) Encourage all children to participate, do not force them
- (c) Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than the result of the activity (that is, winning or losing)
- (d) Encourage children to always participate according to the rules
- (e) Never ridicule, yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game
- (f) Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both teams
- (g) Support all efforts to remove Racial and Religious Vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities
- (h) Respect the Match Official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise
- (i) Show respect and appreciation to Club volunteers, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels
- (j) Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline

Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Remember that children participate for the fun of it and that winning is not everything
- (b) Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or being in a losing team
- (c) Be reasonable in your demands on younger players time, energy and enthusiasm
- (d) Teach your players to abide by the rules and Laws of the Game
- (e) Whenever possible, change the group of players to ensure everyone has a reasonable chance of success
- (f) Avoid overplaying the talented players as all players deserve equal time on the playing field

39

- (g) Ensure that equipment and facilities meet a reasonable safety standard and is appropriate to the age and ability of the players
- (h) Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players
- (i) Develop and enhance respect between players, opposition coaches and the decisions of the Match Official
- (j) Follow the advice of a physician when determining the extent of a player's injury and beyond that, when players are returning from injury to training and Match play
- (k) Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to Coach Accreditation Criteria) and the principles of growth and development in children
- (l) Take time out to teach players (& others) the Laws of the Game, hence raising their awareness
- (m) Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times
- (n) Ensure players are good sports and ensure each team member shakes the hand of their opponents at the conclusion of every Match
- (o) Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline
- (p) Remember the actions of yourself and your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them

Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Involve young people in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making process in the Club network
- (b) Give all children equal opportunities to participate
- (c) Ensure the rules, equipment, length of games and training principles suit the age, ability and maturity level of participants
- (d) Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players
- (e) Remember that children will only continue with football, provided they

enjoy their experience, so do not over-emphasise awards

(f) Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating

(g) Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs

40

(h) Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others

(i) Support the implementation of the National Junior Sport Policy

(j) Make every effort to educate persons who breach these guidelines from time to time

Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

(a) Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players

(b) Praise and encourage all participants

(c) Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions

(d) Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents

(e) Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects

(f) Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members

(g) Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words

(h) Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing, and knowledge of growth and development of children

(i) Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive

Spectators' Code of Behaviour

(a) Remember all children play football for their enjoyment, not just yours

(b) Applaud good play and performances from both teams, and be forward in congratulating all participants on their performance regardless of the final outcome

(c) Respect the Match Official's decisions on the day and teach children to do the same

(d) Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake before, during or after the game, as this may deter that child from continuing in the sport

(e) Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players

(f) Show respect to for both teams when watching matches, because without them there would be no game

41

(g) Encourage players to follow rules and accept the decision of the Match Official

(h) Do not intimidate, harass or use foul language towards, players, Match Officials, Club officials or spectators