

# Junior Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct



Our Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by AFL Goldfields, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered Coach or Team Official may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Junior Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct which is available in hard copy and online via the registration process.

It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by acknowledging they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

## **JUNIOR COACH CODE OF CONDUCT:**

- 1.** Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
- 2.** Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
- 3.** Do not discriminate against any of your players and always work at providing an inclusive environment where all players can participate.
- 4.** Avoid over-playing the talented players. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time, if not more.
- 5.** Remember that the players involved play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Emphasise the importance of the learning and development of skills and positive attitudes. Never ridicule or yell at your players for making mistakes or losing.

**6.** Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.

**7.** Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field.

**8.** Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.

**9.** Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play or train again.

**10.** Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound junior coaching principles and developments. Attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of your local Coaches Association.

**11.** Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

**12.** Have a Working with Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.

**13.** Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.

**14.** Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.

**15.** Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

### **TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT:**

**1.** Be familiar with the laws of Australian Football/Netball and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.

**2.** Encourage team members to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.

**3.** Focus upon team member's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the players in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.

**4.** Teach your team members that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

5. Encourage your team members always to play by the rules.
6. Never ridicule or yell at your team members for making a mistake or losing a competition. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
7. Remember your team members should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
8. Remember your team members learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
9. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your team member's involvement.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
11. Support all club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your club. Offer your assistance to the team whenever possible so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and team members far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Have a Working With Children Check carried out and record your card number and expiry date with the club.
14. Agree to abide by the League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.

## **REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE JUNIOR COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODES OF CONDUCT:**

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Coaches and Team Officials.

### **Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Junior Coaches/Team Officials of the Codes of Conduct**

## **Education Process:**

- 1.** Junior Coaches and Team Officials advised of the Club's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Coach & Team Official's Codes of Conduct. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
- 2.** Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by Coaches and Team Officials.
- 3.** Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
- 4.** Coaches and Team Officials will not be permitted to participate in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Coaches and Team Official's Codes of Conduct.
- 5.** Breaches of AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion.

## **Breaches:**

- 6.** Junior Coaches and Team Officials acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct will be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
- 7.** A Junior Coach or Team Official failing to heed this caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
- 8.** Junior Coaches and Team Officials who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
- 9.** The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member may receive for breaching AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct will be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
- 10.** Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.

11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

### **Regulations:**

1. *No Junior Coach or Team Official may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.*

2. *Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.*

3. *Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.*

4. *Any Junior Coach or Team Official in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The Junior Coach or Team Official may only return to the game at the Club's discretion.*

5. *If the Club/League believe that the Junior Coach or Team Official's behaviour is such that the Junior Coach or Team Official should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Junior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.*

6. *Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.*

7. *Repeated breaches of the Junior Coach and Team Official Code of Conduct by a Junior Coach or Team Official may result in a Junior Coach or Team Official being de-registered from the Club.*

8. *A Club member or official failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the Ground/Court Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).*

*9. The Club member or official will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.*

*10. Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.*

*11. Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.*

*12. The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavour to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.*

**The Club is committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.**