



Codes of Conduct

Players Code of Conduct

Players are bound by the following Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other Club activities:

- Play in accordance with the Laws including by (but not limited to):
 - o avoiding striking, kicking, kneeing, stomping on, charging, scratching, tripping, spitting at, wrestling, pinching another person (or attempting to do so), or any other inappropriate or unsporting behaviour;
 - o refraining from rough conduct or forceful contact with, head butting, eye-gouging or making contact to the face of an opponent (or attempting to do so); and
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour.
- Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o accepting directions and requests made by team and other Officials without argument; and
 - o encouraging team mates to behave in a like manner.
- Encourage a safe, friendly and fun environment for all Players, Officials, parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o controlling your temper and playing attitude;
 - o refraining from sledging, bullying and other inappropriate discriminatory behaviour, unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
 - o focussing on your own performance and play as a team member;
 - o applauding good play and the achievements of other Players, including the opposition;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing others, - including via social media;
 - o consulting your Team Manager or Coach regarding any disagreement with a decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour;
 - o respecting the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs; and
 - o accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.

Notes for Players

- Play in accordance with the Laws.
- Never argue with an Official. If you a player disagrees with a decision, you should ask the Team Manager to raise the matter at an appropriate time.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of Officials and sledging other Players or 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.
- Never engage in any type of unnecessary physical activity either on or off the field.
- Work equally hard for you and your Team. The Teams performance will benefit, and so will yours.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Co-operate with your Coaches, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of your teammates, not to please anyone else.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Don't take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information see the National Member Protection Policy.
- Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.



Parents and Supporters/Spectators Code of Conduct

Parents and supporters/spectators are bound by the following Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other Club activities:

- Support your child and child's team by behaving in a positive fashion including by (but not limited to):
 - o providing only positive feedback and recognition for Players' efforts;
 - o refraining from instructing, coaching or distracting your child during play or training;
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour;
 - o avoiding detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the Club, the Regions or AFL Sydney Juniors; and
 - o encouraging participation, enjoyment and performance equally.
- Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o accepting directions and requests made by Team and other Officials without argument; and
 - o encouraging other parents and supporters/spectators to behave in a like manner.
- Encourage a beneficial environment for all Players, Officials, parent and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o controlling your temper and disruptive behaviour;
 - o refraining from aggressive barracking, bullying and other inappropriate discriminatory behaviour, unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
 - o applauding good play and the achievements of all players including from the opposing team;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing others in public - especially via social media;
 - o consulting the Team Manager or Coach regarding any disagreement with a decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour;
 - o recognising and respecting the efforts of all volunteers;
 - o respecting the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs; and
 - o accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.

Notes for Parents and Supporters

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses. Supporters/spectators are there to support, not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the Club, or AFL Sydney Juniors.
- Never publicly criticise Umpires, rather raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private.
- Do not make remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability. It is your Coach, the Players, Club and family who are let down with such remarks.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter/spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Condemn the use of unnecessary physical contact in any form, whether it is by spectators, Coaches, Officials or Players.
- Abusive language is unacceptable.



Official's Code of Conduct

The Officials of all Clubs are bound by the following Official's Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other club activities:

- Officiate in accordance with the role to which you are appointed including by (but not limited to):
 - o acquiring a proper knowledge of and abiding by the Laws and Rules (and, where appropriate) applying them honestly, uniformly and fairly;
 - o refraining from destructive or exaggerated feedback and commentary on the efforts of Players' and other Officials';
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour;
 - o avoiding detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the Club, the Region or AFL Sydney Juniors; and
 - o encouraging participation, enjoyment and performance equally.
- Respect the Umpires and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o accepting decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o refraining from approaching the Umpires (except when acting as Ground Manager - or if a Goal, or Boundary Umpire, limited to assisting the Field Umpire as requested);
 - o accepting directions and requests made by Ground Managers and other authorised Officials without argument; and
 - o encouraging other Officials to behave in a like manner.
- Encourage a safe, friendly and fun environment for all Players, Officials, parent and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o taking steps to ensure Coaches, Boundary and Goal Umpires, First Aid and other Officials understand their respective responsibilities and respect the need for fair play in sport;
 - o controlling your temper and refraining from disruptive behaviour;
 - o refraining from unnecessary interference, bullying and other inappropriate behaviour, unnecessary and aggressive physical activity;
 - o applauding good play and the achievements of all Players including from the opposing team;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing others including via social media;
 - o recognising and respecting the efforts of all other volunteers;
 - o consulting the Ground Manager regarding any disagreement with a game day decision or direction or regarding any inappropriate behaviour on game day;
 - o addressing early (and assisting other Officials in highlighting and dealing with) any misconduct and other inappropriate behaviour;
 - o respecting (and ensuring the safety of) the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs; and
 - o accepting any warning, penalty or punishment imposed without dispute and taking responsibility for your actions.
- Promoting the health of your club and the Competition including by (but not limited to):
 - o being a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance;
 - o involving others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football;
 - o creating pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as Players but also as Coaches, Umpires and administrators;
 - o appointing, training and developing qualified and competent Coaches and Officials;
 - o helping Coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and to improve the standards of Coaching and officiating;
 - o seeking continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies;
 - o being consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
 - o condemning deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promoting fair play and appropriate sports behaviour;
 - o placing the health and safety of the Players as the most important reason to be weighed during the decision making process;
 - o ensuring you remain up to date with any changes and/or interpretation of Laws and Rules; and
 - o using common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws



Notes for Officials

- Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as Players but also as Coaches, Umpires and administrators.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- Appoint, train and develop qualified and competent Coaches and Officials.
- Help Coaches and Officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of Coaching and officiating.
- Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the Laws and the Rules.
- Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect of the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, or any policy decisions of the Club, AFL Sydney Juniors or AFL.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Ensure all Parents, Coaches, sponsors, Officials, First Aid Officials and Players understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- Abide by the Rules (including any requirements or restraints applying to any official role such as a Boundary or Goal Umpire).
- Display fairness and uniformity in applying the Rules.
- Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- The health and safety of the Players must be the most important reason to be weighed during the decision making process.
- Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' for Players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the Rules and Laws.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
- Ensure you remain up to date with any Law changes and/or interpretation of Laws.
- Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
- Where acting as a Boundary or Goal Umpire, act at all times in a professional manner, do not barrack or give support to a Team, give advice or make comment to the Players, other Officials or spectators, and under no circumstances approach the Field Umpire, except in relation to your Umpiring duties.



Coaches Code of Conduct and Role of the Coach

The Coach is in a unique position wielding significant influence. The Coach interfaces with all groups involved within a Club, and assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to protect the image and profile of the game, both today, and in particular with Coaches of junior teams, in the future. It is essential that every Coach be aware of this unique position and so conduct themselves in such a manner as to maintain the respect and dignity of the position.

All Coaches, whether accredited or not, are bound by the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct, as well as the Rules, including the specific Rules governing Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures.

Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches are bound by the Official's Code of Conduct. In addition, Coaches are bound by the following Coaches' Code of Conduct on game day and during training or other Club activities:

- Coach in accordance with the Laws and Rules including by (but not limited to):
 - o ensuring Players coached conduct themselves within the limits and the spirit of the Laws and Rules;
 - o removing from play (by send-off direction or otherwise) immediately any Player coached who participates in conduct which breaches the Laws or Rules;
 - o anticipating conduct that warrants, and exercising appropriately, the power to direct a Player coached to come off the field during a game or training;
 - o dealing with Players coached honestly, uniformly and fairly;
 - o restricting game day coaching communications to runners (or otherwise in accordance with the Age Group Rules) and otherwise refraining from active coaching from the sidelines;
 - o refraining from open and audible commentary on the effort or performance of the other team's players, coach and other Officials;
 - o abstaining from abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language or behaviour; and
 - o ensuring injured Players are protected and given prompt and competent first aid and medical attention and health policies (such as for concussion) are strictly applied.
- Respect the Umpires, Ground Managers, opposing Coaches and other Officials including by (but not limited to):
 - o requiring team and supporter acceptance of decisions of the Umpire without dispute;
 - o supporting the role of the Ground Manager including by providing appropriate directions to any Player, parent, supporter or team Official;
 - o encouraging parents, supporters and team Officials to behave in a like manner.
- Encourage a beneficial environment for all Players, Officials, parents and spectators including by (but not limited to):
 - o taking the lead in promoting fair play, good sportsmanship and the encouraging recognition for of good role models;
 - o keeping up to date with practical training methods and good coaching theory;
 - o developing your Players' skills, fitness and good character in equal measure with team development;
 - o encouraging others to recognise and applaud good play and the achievements of all players including from the opposition;
 - o setting reasonable and attainable demands, goals and expectations;
 - o avoiding voicing criticism of or ridiculing Players and those assisting or playing against you;
 - o ensuring Players and parents appreciate that regular attendance at training and on game day, together with private practice, is an essential part of Player development;
 - o co-opting assistance from and supporting the efforts of the Ground Manager and other game day Officials; and
 - o fostering respect for self and others including for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents, volunteers and spectators.



Notes for Coaches

- Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
- Teach fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
- Be reasonable in setting demands, goals and expectations.
- Maintain a current knowledge of the Laws, the Rules, of training methods, both theory and practical, and abide by those Laws and Rules.
- Teach and interpret the Laws and Rules to the Players.
- Never ridicule Players.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skill.
- Ensure that all Players understand the importance of regular attendance at training and positive attitude at training and that team selection throughout the season, including the finals, may be influenced by their training attendance and attitude.
- Ensure that injured Players are given prompt and competent First Aid attention and that any doctor's orders are strictly adhered to.
- Endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of Coaching and skill development and of factors relating to the welfare of your Players.
- Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, Officials, parents, volunteers and spectators.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct towards any Player, Official and Umpire, volunteer or spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Never use obscene or other inappropriate language to, or in relation to another person
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic or social media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players, volunteer or any policy decisions of the Club, the Region, AFL Sydney Juniors or the AFL.

Coach and Administrators

- Remember the Coach is a representative of the Club's administration and therefore it is important that Coaches conduct themselves so as to maintain the principles, the integrity and dignity of the position.
- Support the administration policies and regulations that may from time to time be initiated. Any differences should be resolved privately in a composed manner.
- Adhere to Club policy in both letter and spirit.
- Advise the administration of any deficiency in training aids or facilities to redress the situation.

Coach and Umpires

- Treat the Umpire with the utmost good faith and respect.
- Introduce the Umpire to the Players prior to the commencement of the game and encourage Players and Officials to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires.
- Instruct Officials, Players and spectators that there is an appropriate manner and time to address any problems that they have with an Umpire or with any decisions and that time is not during the game, nor the intervals within a game, and certainly not when tempers are a bit frayed.
- Restrain any Official, Player or spectator from any inappropriate action, verbal or physical, toward an Umpire.
- Back up/support an Umpire's disciplinary action should the need arise.
- Never criticise the Umpire to Players or spectators.
- Never incite Players or spectators to act against the Umpire.

Coach and Supporters/Spectators

- Encourage spectators to act in a sportsmanlike manner, congratulating either team for good, fair play.
- Ensure that spectators do not interfere with the game, or encourage Players to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Quickly address any problems that may be brewing with spectator's behaviour and request the Club administration to act in a manner to diffuse any possible problems.



Coach and Parents

- At the commencement of the season, inform parents of the Coach's plan for training of the Players, the social characteristics the Coach expects Players to possess and to display and what disciplinary action he/she would administer should a Player step outside the Coaches guidelines.
- Request parents support the Coach in any disciplinary action the Coach is required to undertake.
- Request parents act in an honest and sportsmanlike manner in their dealings with the Coach, the Club's Officials, the Umpires, volunteers and the opposition Officials, Players and spectators.
- Request that if a parent has a problem with the Coach, or in the treatment of their child, that they firstly raise that problem with the Coach in question and then if dissatisfied by either the outcome of that meeting or subsequent actions taken/not taken, the matter be escalated to Club administration.



Appendix 11 Coach Accreditation Requirements Summary

Status	Requirements					
	Register on Footyweb in Club (as a Coach)	Complete / Update Team Allocation on footyweb	Register for accreditation course and attend	Complete Online Certificate	Provide Club Documents and \$75 fee	Submit completed Workbook
New Coach in new season	Club registration link	Club registration link	Accreditation Course registration	Junior online certificate or Youth /Senior online certificate		
Accreditation expired (need to renew prior to commencement of season)	Club registration link	Club registration link			Reaccreditation link	
Returning accredited Coach	Club registration link	Club registration link				
Completed accreditation course in 2016 or prior If more than 2 years a new Course may need to be required	Club registration link	Club registration link		Junior online certificate or Youth /Senior online certificate		Yes Pre Round 4
Completed online certificate in 2016 only (Course missed)	Club registration link	Club registration link	Accreditation Course registration			