

Codes of Conduct

Parents /spectators

- › Remember children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- › Encourage children to participate, do not force participation upon them.
- › Focus on your children's efforts and self-esteem rather than whether they win or lose
- › Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- › Never ridicule or yell at children for making a mistake or if their team loses a game.
- › Remember children learn best by example – applaud the efforts of all players in both teams.
- › Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- › Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators – without whom your child could not participate.
- › Respect umpires' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- › Remember smoking and the consumption of alcohol is unacceptable at junior sport.

Administration/officials

- › Ensure equal participation for all: provide equal opportunities for all regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, disability or ethnic origin.
- › Suitability of program: ensure that the rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of the participants.
- › Ensure adequate supervision: adequate supervision must be provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skills.
- › Stress enjoyment: remember children participate for enjoyment. Play down the importance of rewards.
- › Arrange adult education: develop improved standards of coaching and officiating with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skills.
- › Promote fair play: ensure parents, coaches, officials, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- › Modify to suit various levels: modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of participants and their needs.
- › Promote respect for opponents: condemn unsporting behaviour.
- › Maximise enjoyment: publicly encourage rule changes that will reinforce the principle of participating for fun and enjoyment.
- › Keep up to date: make a personal commitment to keep informed of the sound principles of administering recommended football programs for junior players.



Players

- › Play by the rules: they are there for the good of all.
- › Never argue with an official: if you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach or teacher after the game.
- › Control your temper: verbal abuse, racial or religious vilification of other players, and provoking an opponent or the other team are never appropriate.
- › Be a good sport: applaud all good plays by your team, opponent or the opposition team.
- › Treat all players fairly: treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- › Cooperate willingly: cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- › Play for fun: Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents and coaches.

Coaches' Code of Conduct (as signed by accredited coaches)

- › I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of my involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, gender, ethnic background or special ability/disability.
- › I will abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game and the rules of my club and league/association.
- › I will be reasonable in the demands I make on the time commitments of the players in my care, having due consideration for their health and well-being.
- › I will be supportive at all times and I will refrain from any form of personal or physical abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in my care.
- › I will have due consideration for the varying maturity and ability levels of my players when designing practice

schedules, practice activities and involvement in competition.

- › Where I am responsible for players in the 5-18-year-old age group, I will strive to ensure that all players gain equal playing time. I will avoid overplaying the talented players, aiming to maximise participation, learning and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability.
- › I will stress and monitor safety always.
- › In recognising the significance of injury and sickness, I will seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the return of injured or ill players to training.
- › I will endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development, and of factors relating to the welfare of my players.
- › I will at all times display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practise fair play.
I will display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents and spectators.
- › I will ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities and not overshadowed by a desire to win. I reject the use of performance-enhancing substances in sport and will abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL Anti Doping and Illicit Drugs policies.

I agree to the following terms:

I agree to abide by the AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that the AFL, or a body affiliated with the AFL, may take disciplinary action against me if I breach the code of conduct. I understand that the AFL, or a body affiliated with the AFL, is required to implement a complaints handling

procedure in accordance with the principles of natural justice in the event of an allegation against me. I acknowledge that disciplinary action against me may include de-registration from the AFL National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

Note: The Coaches' Code of Conduct is to be signed and followed as part of the accreditation requirements of the AFL. Coaches should be aware that, in addition to the Code, they may be obliged to sign a further code of conduct/ethics with their club and/or league.

AFL Kids First

AFL Kids First is a program that has been designed for leagues to guide parents so both they and their children obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their participation in junior programs and matches.



Parents barracking and wanting their children to perform well is natural, but it is critical this is done in a responsible and positive manner and that the ugly parent syndrome is avoided at all times.

AFL Kids First includes recommendations for leagues and their clubs to manage situations where parents become over-enthusiastic and risk having a negative impact on their children's activities. The AFL has produced an operations manual for leagues and clubs, which can be found at afl.com.au/development/forclubs/kidsfirst/tabid/10233/default.aspx.

