



CODES OF CONDUCT

The major objective of Junior Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment (Fun). The following Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our junior game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective. The West Australian Football Development Council strongly advises that all persons involved be issued with copies of the appropriate code of conduct. WA Football supports acts of sportsmanship (hand shaking etc) between players, coaches, administrators, umpires etc.

ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, gender, age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating children.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Remember that children participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, trainers and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Ensure promotion, well-being and safety of umpires and encourage good sportsmanship before, during and after matches.
- Ensure positive player/umpire/relationships are continually developed.



COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Avoid over-playing the talented players. Every player needs and deserves equal time.
- Remember that children participate for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Take into consideration the maturity level of the children, when scheduling and determining the length of practice times and competitions.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Ensure positive coach/umpire relationships are continually developed.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour as well as basic skills.
- Ensure that skill learning and appropriate sports behaviour have priority over highly structured competitions for young children.
- Help children understand the responsibilities and implications of their freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.
- Ensure knowledge of laws of the game is such that you encourage the players to play the game and accept the role of the umpire.
- Be aware of your obligations to adhere to all policies contained or referred to within the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Coaching Manuals where applicable.

PARENTS'/SPECTATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Encourage children to participate, if they are interested.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best from example. Applaud good plays by all teams.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches.
- Remember that children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the umpire's decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or umpires.



PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
- Work equally hard for yourself and for your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you too.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether it is by your team, opponent or the other team.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Avoid using derogatory language.
- Be prepared to take responsibility for your actions.

RUNNERS'/WATER CARRIERS'/TRAINERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- The runner/water carrier/trainer SHOULD BE AN ADULT.
- The runner/water carrier/trainer must be clearly identified by a uniform.
- The names of the runners/water carriers/trainers must be entered on the official team sheets.
- No abusive language or swearing is permitted by the runner/water carrier/trainer.
- Support the decision of the umpires at all times and never question their decisions.

UMPIRES' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
- Compliment all participants on their efforts.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Ensure that the "spirit of the game" for children is not lost by using commonsense and not over emphasising errors.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender.



AFL KIDS FIRST

Today's parents have an important role in the delivery and support of sporting activities for their own and other children. With it comes a clear responsibility to act in a constructive and encouraging manner at all times.

Barracking and wanting your child to perform well is human nature, but it is critical that this should be done in a responsible manner avoiding the ugly parent syndrome at all times.

The AFL invests over \$23 million annually in strategies that support the participation of 450,000 players throughout Australia. AFL Kids First is a program that has been designed for leagues and associations to guide parents so that both they and their children obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their participation in junior programs and matches.

AFL Kids First includes recommendations for leagues, associations and their clubs to manage situations where parents become over-enthusiastic and risk having a negative impact on their children's activities.

The basic principles of AFL Kids First are to remind parents that:

- Sport for children is a vital part of their growing up.
- Children like to win, but more importantly, they want to have fun.
- Parents need to set the right example at the sportsground, not just at home.
- Parents should be proud of their child's efforts irrespective of the result.
- Sport is important to children's self esteem.

The AFL has produced an operational manual for leagues, associations and clubs to drive these principles, and to remind parents of the vital responsibilities and to outline appropriate procedures in the event problems arise.

The manual outlines the program's objectives, presents the code of conduct appropriate to all parents, describes the education process for junior leagues and associations, and the conduct of an information session, the appointment of a coordinator to manage process, and the role and duties of the coordinator, parents, and administrators.

The continued growth and health of the game depends on junior programs and matches being conducted in a positive, encouraging and fun environment. AFL Kids First provides guidance for achieving this objective. Please contact WAFC Community Development Coordinator – Clubs & Volunteers, Glenn Morley for more information.