



**AFL VICTORIA**

***CODES OF CONDUCT***

**VARIOUS POLICY TEMPLATES**

## **AFL VICTORIA CODES OF CONDUCT**

*(AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.4 (a))*

*AFL Victoria (AFLV) is justifiably proud of the long history that Australian Football has played within this State since the mid-nineteenth century. The past 150 years have witnessed significant achievements and created lifelong memories for hundreds of thousands of people. To ensure that Australian Football plays a significant part of our future for the next 150 years we need to be smarter about the way we preserve the traditions and values of our game.*

*One of the critical components of our game is the passion that people show for the team & club that they support. Whilst this passion is usually harnessed and used to support our game, it sometimes can boil over to create negative situations. We must all work together in the attempt to eliminate this negative passion.*

*Codes of Conduct are an integral component of sporting activities and the following codes compliment the good work of many football bodies over several years and the Australian Sports Commission requirement.*

*All Members of AFLV shall adopt Member specific codes and AFLV encourages Members to be vigilant in enforcing such codes whether via support for those who constantly abide by the codes and / or harsh penalties for those who fail to act in accordance with the codes.*

..... FOOTBALL CLUB (SAMPLE POLICY)

(AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.4 (b))

**MANDATORY & ENFORCEABLE CODES OF CONDUCT FOR  
COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS, SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIALS**

The ..... Football Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL and AFL Victoria.

**COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

Coaches are required to sign the AFL Code of Conduct as part of the Level 1 Accreditation requirement. All coaches must be accredited to coach in our League.

**PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Play by the rules – the rules of your club and the laws of the game.
- Never argue with an umpire or other official – without these people, you can't play football.
- Control your temper - verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games.
- Be a team player – It's a team game, treat it that way.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated – fairly.
- Co-operate with your coach, the umpires and team-mates.
- Play for your own enjoyment & to improve your skills.
- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your coach, team-mates and family if you do – & many such comments are actually now illegal.

**PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 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 are there to support not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time.
- Never publicly criticise umpires – raise personal concerns with club officials in private.
- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your family and yourself if you do – & many such comments are actually now illegal.

By registering our child with the .....FC we agree to abide by these principles. We support the Club in its undertakings and encourage the Club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any players, parents and or spectators for repeated or serious breaches of these Codes of Conduct.

**PLAYERS NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

**PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 20 \_\_\_\_

# **COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**



**I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby commit, to the best of my ability, to uphold the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct.**

***I understand that as an integral component of my accreditation, I must maintain a standard of behaviour and conduct in the best interests of the game and the players/ staff in my care.***

***In representing myself in an honest manner and without bringing the coaching profession or the Game into disrepute, I will endeavour to uphold the following to the best of my ability:***

1. *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, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.*
2. *I will abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game and the Rules of my Club and League/Association.*
3. *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.*
4. *I will refrain from any form of personal abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in my care.*
5. *I will have due consideration for varying maturity and ability levels of my players when designing practice schedules, practice activities and involvement in competition.*
6. *I will avoid overplaying the talented players aiming to maximise participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability. Where I am responsible for players in the 5-12 year old age group, I will ensure that all players gain equal playing time.*
7. *I will stress and monitor safety always*
8. *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*
9. *I will endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development, and of factors relating to the welfare of my players*
10. *I will at all times display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practise fair play.*
11. *I will display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents and spectators.*
12. *I will ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities are not overshadowed by a desire to win.*
13. *I reject the use of performance enhancing substances in sport and will abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL DRUG POLICY.*

**Note:** This "Coaches Code of Conduct" is to be signed and conformed to as part of the accreditation requirements of the AFL. Coaches should be aware that, in addition to this Code, they may be obliged to sign a further Code of Conduct/Ethics with their Club and/or League.

**SIGNATURE OF COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_**

**SIGNATURE OF CLUB PRESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE \_\_\_\_\_**

..... FOOTBALL CLUB  
**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE & VALUES**  
*(AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.4 (d))*

*<Template for use as deemed appropriate>*

*The ..... Football Club aims to provide an opportunity for the youth of our area to participate in Australian Rules Football and enhance their health and well-being through organised sport. The Club, will at all times, endeavour to provide for the health, welfare and well being of its players, supporters and spectators. This aim will be achieved by promoting and developing the following values and objectives:*

- A sense of social and community values.
- An environment to nurture the physical and mental development of our youth.
- Respect for officials, opposition players and supporters.
- The virtues of fair and disciplined play.
- Equal opportunities for everyone.

They will be realised by providing as far as reasonable:

- Competent coaches and assistants.
- Adequate facilities, amenities and equipment.
- Supervised social functions encouraging family participation.
- Regular communication and consultation with players and parents.
- Active leadership and management of the Club.

All players, Coaches and Officials, parents, supporters and Committee members have a responsibility at all times when representing the ..... Football Club to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner consistent with these values and or Codes of Conduct.

Date:.....

Review date: .....

..... FOOTBALL CLUB  
**TEAMS SELECTION POLICY & GUIDELINES**  
*(AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.4 (e))*

*<Template for use as deemed appropriate>*

*This document has been produced to clarify the team selection process. It is Club policy to support our Coaches in any reasonable decisions they make. The Club requires our Coaches to adhere to the following guidelines as far as practicable:*

- **Age Group's U/12 & below**

In these age groups, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment. Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being.

Where two sides are formed in the same age group, regardless of their divisional standing, it is the wish of the Club that the two sides will be picked by the Coaches to form two 'equal' teams. The Committee will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.

Our league policy allows for ... players to play in an under-age match in these age groups. The League requires, and the Club expects, that all players be permitted to play a minimum of a half game as far as practicable.

- **Age Group's U/13 through to U/17**

The Club aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the league. A Club's grading is determined by the performance of these age group teams in matches over the season. A greater emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.

Where there is a single side in any age group selection of the side is the responsibility of the appointed coach.

Where two sides are formed in the same age group and in different Divisions, Coaches are empowered to select teams. This is to be based on the Coaches judgment and perception of the player's abilities, potential, development, attitude, commitment and the need for team balance. The Committee will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.

Where two sides are formed in the same age group and in the same division, it is the wish of the Club that the two sides will be picked by the Coaches to form two 'equal' teams. The Committee will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.

Our league policy allows for ... players to play in an under-age match in these age groups. The League requires, and the Club expects, that all players be permitted to play a minimum of a half game as far as practicable. Coaches must endeavour to provide the maximum number of players an opportunity to participate.

- **Age group's U/18, U/19 or Open-age**

The Club aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the league. A Club's divisional allocation is determined by the performance of the senior team in the previous season and / or the number of divisions.

The selection of the side is the responsibility of the appointed coaching panel. This is to be based on the Coaches judgment and perception of the player's abilities, potential, development, attitude, commitment and the need for team balance. The Committee will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.

- **Special needs**

The Club appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances, and that some players may wish to be in a particular side. Such requests should be made through the Coaches and Team Managers of the respective teams in accordance with the club conflict resolution procedure.

- **Refunds of registration fees and jumper deposits**

Players may withdraw from a team up to and including Round 3 and obtain a full refund of their Registration Fee less insurance, affiliation fee of \$... and Jumper Deposit (on return of their jumper in a proper state). After Round 3, the remainder of the Registration Fee is non-refundable.

- **Registrations after commencement of season - Juniors**

No additional junior registrations will be accepted without the express consent of any affected Coach after the commencement of the playing season. Where teams have at least 25 players, additional players will not be registered unless there are extenuating circumstances. In any such instance the Coach must outline their reasons for consideration by the Committee.

In all circumstances the club abides by our league policy that does not allow registrations beyond a total of .... per team.

The Team Selection Policy and Guidelines are reviewed at least annually and every effort will be made to ensure that all parties have access to this information.

..... FOOTBALL CLUB  
**ISSUE RESOLUTION POLICY & GUIDELINES**  
*(AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.4 (f))*

*<Template for use as deemed appropriate>*

**Policy**

The .....FC requires that all issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the members and Committee in a timely fashion. Accordingly, the following issue resolution procedures have been developed to enable this objective to be fulfilled. All members have a responsibility to participate in reasonable actions to resolve issues. The procedures below detail the level of involvement for expediting issue resolution.

**Procedure**

1. Any person wishing to raise a issue shall do so as follows:

ISSUE	RAISED WITH
Football or team related	Team Manager or coach
General nature	Committee Member

Where possible the person reporting the issue should make suggestions that may resolve the issue. As soon as possible after an issue has been reported, the Team Manager, Coach and/or Committee Member and the claimant, must meet and try and resolve the issue.

2. Where the initial parties cannot resolve the issue, the Team Manager should refer the matter to the Committee through the Football Manager, President or Secretary as soon as possible.
3. In attempting to resolve the issue, all parties should take into account the following factors:
  - 3.1 The extent of the issue, i.e. if it is likely to have a wider effect in the Club
  - 3.2 The number of players or teams affected
  - 3.3 Whether appropriate temporary measures are possible or desirable
  - 3.4 The expected time before the issue can be addressed
  - 3.5 What resources may be needed to resolve the issue
4. The consent of the Committee must be obtained before any external parties are involved in the resolution of Club issues. Only the Club President is authorised to make public statements on behalf of the Club.
5. The Team Manager and/or Coach may at any time call on Committee Members for assistance.

**Any football or team related issue reported to the Committee, where the Team Manager and/or Coach has not been given the initial opportunity to resolve any such issue, will be referred back to the Team Manager/Coach.**

All persons must take reasonable actions to avoid situations that could cause serious injury or harm to health of players, officials or the public. If any hazard is identified the Committee are to be informed as soon as possible.