



# Codes of Conduct and Fair Play.

**These codes form part of the Rules of the Club and any breaches will be dealt with severely.**

## **Players - Code of Conduct and Fair Play**

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with a referee or assistant referee.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in soccer.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Recognise all good players whether they are part of your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in soccer as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **Training**

- Attend training sessions. Notify your coach if you are unable to attend training.
- Be properly and appropriately attired - soccer boots, shin pads, socks, appropriate shorts and appropriate shirts.
- Bring a water bottle.

### **Game**

- Attend all games.
- Notify the coach or manager if you are unable to attend.
- Be at the game at least half an hour before the game starts.
- Be properly attired - soccer boots, shin pads, socks, shorts.
- Always bring a water bottle.
- Shirts must be tucked in and socks pulled up.

## **Coaches and Managers - Code of Conduct and Fair Play**

- Participation is for pleasure. Winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or not winning.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach your players likewise.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Every player needs and deserves equal playing time.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, managers, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage your players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution towards sick or injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young players.
- Avoid any physical contact with a player.

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **Training**

- Run training sessions for your team.
- Notify your team if training has to be cancelled for any reason.

### **Game**

- Provide all players with a draw once you have been given one.
- Notify your team if matches are cancelled or details change for any reason.
- Attend all games or make other arrangements if you are unable to attend.
- Ensure that all players receive equal time on the field during the season.
- Ensure team sheets are correctly filled in and returned to the canteen at home games.
- Ensure that nets, goal posts and other equipment are put up, taken down and put away as required.

## **Parents - Code of Conduct and Fair Play**

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment.
- Encourage children to participate but do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all soccer activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, managers, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **Training**

- Ensure that your child attends training.
- Attend the training session when possible.
- Ensure that you are there when training has finished or make arrangements for your child to be picked up.
- Ensure you or your child advises the coach or manager if they are unable to attend training.

### **Game**

- Ensure your child is at the game at least half an hour before the game starts.
- Notify the coach or manager if your child cannot attend the game.
- Encourage and support your child so that playing is enjoyable.
- Do not criticise or harass the referee, or the opposition. Remember, there is no game without a referee.

## **Spectators – Code of Conduct and Fair Play**

- Remember that people participate for their enjoyment and benefit; not yours.
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach players to do the same.
- Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all soccer activities whether it is by spectators, managers, coaches, officials, administrators or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, managers, coaches or officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

## **Officials – Code of Conduct and Fair Play**

- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of young people.
- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors.
- Encourage and promote rule changes, which will make participation more enjoyable.
- Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and the principles of growth and development of young players.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

## **Administrators – Code of Conduct and Fair Play**

- Provide opportunity for involvement of all players in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to their activity.
- Give all players equal opportunities to participate.
- Create pathways for players to participate in soccer not just as a player but also as a coach, manager, referee and administrator.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of players.
- Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players.
- Remember that players participate for their enjoyment and benefit. Do not overemphasise awards.
- Encourage coaches, managers and officials to highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help to improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure that everyone involved in sport emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Give a Code of Conduct and Fair Play document to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, managers and players and encourage them to follow it.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Support implementation of Football Australia's National Junior Development Policy.
- Make it clear that abusing players in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

**Reference: NDSFA  
Australian Sports Commission  
Handbook for Coaches and Managers  
Football NSW**

**Club By-Laws  
Club Handbook  
Play by the Rules**