



South Croydon Junior Football Club

Codes of Conduct

Zero Tolerance – Poor Behaviour

CODE OF CONDUCT

- **COACHES:**
 - I will respect all individuals within the context of my involvement in Australian football and will refrain from any discriminatory practices, including but not limited to discrimination based on race, religion, gender, ethnic background, special ability/disability, or sexual orientation, preference, or identity.
 - I will abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game, as well as 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, considering their health and wellbeing.
 - I will always be supportive and will refrain from any form of personal or physical abuse, as well as unnecessary physical contact, with the players in my care.
 - I will show consideration for the varying maturity and levels of ability among my players when designing practice schedules, practice activities, and football competition involvement.
 - Where I am responsible for players in the 5–18-year-old age group, I will use my best efforts to ensure that players gain equal playing time.
 - I will monitor and ensure the safety of players in my care.
 - In recognising injury and sickness, I will seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the participation and/or return to training of injured or ill players.
 - I will keep up to date with the principles of coaching, skill development, and player welfare.
 - I will always display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practice fair play.
 - I will display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, 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 in the AFL Anti-Doping and Illicit Drugs policies.
 - I acknowledge that the AFL, or a body affiliated with the AFL, may take disciplinary action against me if I breach any part of this Code of Conduct. I understand that the AFL, or a body affiliated with the AFL, is required to implement a complaints



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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.
- **ADMINISTRATORS/OFFICIALS:**
 - Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all players, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex (for females under 14), 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 players.
 - Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
 - Remember that players 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, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play. 2 Eastern Football Netball League
 - Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of players 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 players.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

- Support the participants and enjoy the match.
- Encourage participation, but do not force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Not ridicule mistakes or losses.
- 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.
- Not publicly criticise umpires; instead, raise personal concerns with club officials in private.



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- Avoid remarks based on race, religion, gender, or ability. Such comments are politically incorrect and bring discredit to your coach, team-mates, club, and family.
 - Respect the facilities and equipment of both your own and opposing clubs.
 - Not engage in physical or verbal intimidation, abuse, or conduct toward any player, official, umpire, or supporter.
 - Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether by spectators, coaches, officials, or players.
 - Not enter the field of play during a sanctioned competition match unless granted permission by an official.
 - Not engage in any form of bullying, including via the use of social media.
 - Not make or post inappropriate, offensive, or discriminatory comments in public forums, including via social media, about players, clubs, umpires, officials, the AFL, or the league. (Social media includes but is not limited to email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings — including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites, and blogs.)

PLAYERS:

- Not bring the game of Australian Football, the AFL, the League, or the Club into disrepute.
 - Participate in competition matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.
 - Respect the spirit of the Laws of Australian Football and fair play, and behave accordingly.
 - Display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, officials, parents, and spectators.
 - Never argue with or dispute a decision of an official or umpire. If a participant disagrees with a decision, they should deal with their dispute in accordance with the relevant rules, regulations, policies, and determinations.
 - Control their emotions, and not engage in verbal abuse, swearing at or near others, sledging players and/or coaches, or behaviour that deliberately distracts or provokes an opponent.
 - Comply with the AFL and League Rules and Regulations, including the National Member Protection Policy, League By-Laws, and this Code of Conduct.
 - Never engage in any type of violence, either on or off the field.
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- Contribute to a safe sporting environment and a respectful culture that accepts individual differences and behave accordingly.
 - Cooperate with their club officials, coaches, and team-mates.
 - Participate for their own enjoyment and benefit, and for the enjoyment and benefit of their teammates, coaches, and club officials.
 - Comply with and observe the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Policy, including respecting the rights, dignity, and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, sexual orientation, cultural background, or religion.
 - Not engage in conduct that is unethical, unbecoming, or likely to cause harm to the reputation of the participant or the club.
 - Not take part in any form of bullying, including via the use of social media.
 - Not make or post inappropriate, offensive, or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about players, clubs, umpires, officials, the AFL, or the League. (Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings — including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok or any other platform, websites, and blogs.)
 - Use appropriately the facilities and equipment made available for administration, coaching, training, competition matches, and events, including facilities provided by opposing teams.

Note: Codes of Conduct are part of the National Football Policy provided by the Australian Football League.



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South Croydon Junior Football Club has a zero-tolerance approach to poor behaviour. We are proud to be a family-oriented club where all players, members, volunteers, officials, and visitors feel safe, respected, and valued.

While passion and enthusiasm are encouraged, they must never escalate into abuse, intimidation, aggression, or behaviour that undermines the safety and wellbeing of others. Junior football is about participation, development, enjoyment, and respect.

The following behaviours are unacceptable and will not be tolerated:

- Abuse directed towards umpires, players, coaches, volunteers, officials, or spectators.
- Verbal, physical, or threatening behaviour of any kind.
- Bullying, harassment, discrimination, or intimidation.
- Inappropriate, abusive, or harmful use of social media or electronic communications.
- Any breach of the SCJFC Code of Conduct, AFL Victoria policies, EFNL policies, or applicable laws.

Parents, guardians, members, or spectators who engage in abusive, threatening, or inappropriate behaviour may be directed to leave the venue immediately. The Club may also refuse future registrations, restrict attendance at Club activities, or impose other sanctions as deemed appropriate.

All reported incidents will be reviewed by the SCJFC Executive Committee, which will determine any disciplinary action in accordance with this policy, the Club's Constitution, and the principles of procedural fairness.

Standard Sanctions

1. **First offence:** Suspension from attending one (1) match.
2. **Second offence:** Suspension from attending three (3) matches.
3. **Third offence:** Suspension for the remainder of the season. The family may also be requested to leave the Club.



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Membership Revocation and Exclusion from Club Activities

The Club reserves the right to impose immediate and/or more severe sanctions where the nature, seriousness, or impact of an incident warrants such action.

Where the Executive Committee determines, after considering all relevant circumstances and affording procedural fairness, that revocation of membership is appropriate and in the best interests of the Club, its participants, volunteers, members, or the broader community, it may resolve to revoke the membership of the individual/s concerned with immediate effect.

Upon revocation of membership, the Executive Committee may prohibit the individual and, where considered necessary and reasonable in the circumstances, members of their family or household from:

- Attending or participating in any Club activity, event, fixture, function, or program;
- Accessing Club facilities or venues used by the Club;
- Volunteering for, or providing services to, the Club;
- Holding any position or office within the Club; and/or
- Representing the Club in any capacity.

Any exclusion imposed under this clause shall take effect from the date of formal notification and shall remain in force for the period determined by the Executive Committee. Revocation of Club Membership is intended to be a permanent sanction.

The Executive Committee may determine the scope, duration, and conditions of any exclusion having regard to the safety, welfare, and best interests of the Club, its participants, volunteers, members, and the broader community.

Nothing in this clause limits the Club's ability to take any other action available to it under its Constitution, By-Laws, Codes of Conduct, policies, AFL Victoria regulations, EFNL regulations, or applicable law.

Police Matters

Any incident that results in the involvement of Victoria Police may result in the immediate suspension of all involved parties from Club activities pending investigation.

Following consideration of the available information, including any findings or outcomes from Victoria Police or other relevant authorities, the Executive Committee will determine whether any further disciplinary action is warranted.
