

# AFL NSW/ACT CODE OF CONDUCT



The following is an extract from the AFL NSW/ACT Regulations in regards to the conduct of players, parents, supporters, administrators, officials and coaches in competitions conducted by AFL NSW/ACT and AFL NSW/ACT members.

## Appendix “A”

### CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of Australian Football in NSW and the ACT by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders. It also seeks to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants and stakeholders, and deter conduct that could impair confidence in the honest and professional conduct of Matches or in the integrity and good character of its participants.

The Code of Conduct may be supplemented by additional codes of behaviour or ethics, provided that they are not inconsistent with the terms of this Code.

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour and conduct of its Players, Officials, Coaches and Supporters.

#### 1. PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

Each Player and Official understands and agrees to:

- (A) Not bring the game of Australian Football, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League or the Club into disrepute;
- (B) Participate in Competition Matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football;
- (C) Respect the spirit of the Laws of Australian Football and fair play, and behave accordingly;
- (D) Display and foster respect for Umpires, opponents, Coaches, administrators, Officials, parents and spectators;
- (E) Never to argue with or dispute a decision of an Official. If a Participant disagrees with a decision, they should deal with their dispute in accordance with the relevant Rules, Regulations, Policies and Determinations;
- (F) Control their emotions, and not engage in verbal abuse of Officials, sledging Players and/or Coaches or behaviour that deliberately distracts or provokes an opponent;

- (G) Comply with the AFL and AFL NSW/ ACT Rules and Regulations including the National Member Protection Policy, the League By-Laws and this Code of Conduct;
- (H) Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;
- (I) Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences, and behave accordingly;
- (J) Cooperate with their Club Officials, Coaches and team-mates;
- (K) Participate for their own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of their teammates, Coaches and Club Officials;
- (L) 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;
- (M) Not engage in conduct that is (in AFL NSW/ ACT's reasonable opinion), unethical, unbecoming or likely to cause harm to the reputation of the Participant, the AFL, AFL NSW/ ACT, the League, the Club or Australian Football;
- (N) Not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media;
- (O) Not make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public, including via social media, about Players, Clubs, Umpires, Officials, the AFL, AFL NSW/ACT or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as, but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs);
- (P) Use appropriately the facilities and equipment made available for administration, coaching, training, Competition Matches and events, including facilities provided by the opposing teams; and
- (Q) Comply with and observe the AFL Anti-Doping Code and any relevant Illicit Drugs policies.

## **2. PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each Parent and Supporter understands and agrees to:

- (A) Support the participants and enjoy the Match;
- (B) Encourage participation, but don't force it;
- (C) Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning;
- (D) Not ridicule mistakes or losses;
- (E) Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires, Officials and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated;
- (F) Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time;

- (G) Not publicly criticise Umpires and instead raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private;
- (H) Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability as many such comments are politically incorrect and it is your Coach, team-mates, Club and family that are let down with such remarks;
- (I) Respect the facilities and equipment of their own and opposing Clubs;
- (J) Not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any Player, Official, Umpire or supporter;
- (K) Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, Coaches, Officials or Players;
- (L) Not use abusive language;
- (M) Not to enter the field of play in any sanctioned Competition Match unless granted permission by an Official to do so;
- (N) 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, AFL NSW/ACT or the League. Social media includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, phone messages, digital images, website postings (including social media such as but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, websites and blogs).