

# SENIOR PLAYERS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

<b>Club:</b>			
<b>Player's Name:</b>			
<b>Player's Age Group:</b>			
<b>Player's Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian's Name:</b>			
<b>Parent/Guardian's Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

I/we fully support the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL Goldfields, AFL Victoria Country and Netball Victoria. The codes of conduct are applicable to all Club activities including fixtured games, team training, social events and other official club or team events. No registered player may participate in a fixtured game of Football/Netball until they have read and understood the Player Code of Conduct with their parent or guardian. This process can be conducted either via the online registration process or by obtaining a hard copy of this document. It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure they are setting a good example by acknowledging they have read and understand the Code of Conduct. This process is now part of the online registration process.

## SENIOR PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. At all times abide by the rules of the League in which you compete and the club for which you play. Rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
2. Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition. Do not assault or attempt to assault an Umpire, another player, officials or spectators.
3. Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse of officials, umpires, spectators or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted.
4. Ensure that both on and off field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Swearing is not acceptable.
5. Do not abuse, dispute or react in an obviously provocative or disappointing manner towards an Umpire.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Conduct yourself at a high level of personal behaviour on and off the field in such a manner so as not to bring your club or the game of Australian Football into disrepute.
7. Co-operate with your coach and team mates, and respect the ability of your opponent. Without them there would be no game.
8. Always show respect for Umpires and respect decisions made even if you do not agree with the outcome.
9. Develop a respect for the League in which you compete, your club, team mates and opponents.
10. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
11. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
12. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
13. Be willing to be involved in local football development and promotional activities.
14. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

## SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Do not be critical of others in their roles within the club either as players or officials. Always be supportive and mindful of those around you.
2. Focus upon the individual's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the individual in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Encourage honest efforts and make it as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage others always to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at others for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember those you are supporting should be involved in Football/Netball for their enjoyment, not yours.
7. Remember others learn best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for the involvement of others.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your club members and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that you support so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your club far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
13. Agree to abide by your League's policies as listed on the website and in the information booklet and operations manual.
14. Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information they should see their state, league or national Member Protection Policy.
15. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

As a member or supporter of my club, I/we agree to abide by these principles. We will ensure that we understand the expected behaviour of a member or supporter of our club. 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, and/or Supporters for repeated or serious breaches to this Code of Conduct. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to ensure that family or friends attending events are made aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct.



*Ballarat Football Netball League, Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League,  
Central Highlands Football Netball League, Riddell District Football Netball League*



# REGULATIONS SUPPORTING THE PLAYERS, PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODES OF CONDUCT

These regulations have been developed to support Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials act upon breaches of the Codes of Conduct by Players and Supporters.

## Summary of Action to Advise and Caution Players and/or Supporters of the Codes of Conduct

### **Education Process:**

1. Players and/or Supporters are advised of the Club/League's Codes of Conduct and Policies at the time of registration or at a club training session via the distribution of the Club Handbook. Members may choose to sign a declaration on the registration form or read this document via the online registration process agreeing to abide by the Codes of Conduct and Policies.
2. Prior to the commencement of the fixtured season, the Club will conduct an information session to discuss the expected levels of behaviour by both Players and Supporters.
3. Display League code of conduct policies and rules at matches and around the club.
4. Players and supporters will not be permitted to play in a fixtured game for the Club unless they have acknowledged they have read and understood the Player and Supporter's Codes of Conduct.
5. Breaches of AFL Goldfields Codes of Conduct may be dealt with separately to breaches of AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules and further penalties may apply at the League's discretion. This may be on top of penalties issued by a Tribunal or Appeals Board.

### **Breaches:**

6. Players and supporters acting in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct may be cautioned regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour at the time of the breach by a club or league official. This caution may also take the form of written advice in the days/weeks after the incident occurs.
7. A player or supporter failing to heed and on the spot caution may be asked to leave the venue or event.
8. Players or supporters who receive a caution will be provided with an opportunity to respond in writing and will also have the opportunity to front their league's Board to address the allegations.
9. The League reserves the right to implement a penalty for any breach of this code of conduct. This may be in addition to any penalty a club member or supporter may receive for breaching AFL Victoria Country/Netball Victoria rules. (ie. If a club member is reported and sent to the Tribunal, the breach of the code of conduct may be handled separately by the appropriate League Board)
10. Any incident regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct should be recorded by the Club using the provided 'Report Incident' sheets and submitted to the League who will follow up on the issue.
11. Repeated behaviour contrary to the Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the Club in conjunction with the League.

### **Regulations**

1. No player or supporter may take part in any fixtured game of Football/Netball for their club unless they have read and understand this Code of Conduct. Team Officials are required to read and understand this document also.
2. Clubs are responsible for all club members to have read and understand Codes of Conduct and must make members aware of their responsibility to have read and understood the terms and conditions within.
3. Coaches and/or Team Managers must address players, parent/guardians and supporters formally as a group (where practical) outlining the expected standards of behaviour required under the Codes of Conduct.
4. Any player or supporter in the opinion of the Club's committee or the League, breaching the relevant Code of Conduct may be immediately removed from the playing arena. The player or supporter may return to the game at the Club's discretion.
5. If the Club/League believe that the player or supporter's behaviour is such that the player, parent or supporter should be formally cautioned or suspended from subsequent games due to breaches of the Senior Player or Supporter Code of Conduct they will first contact the Club Secretary who will liaise with the club member who has breached the code of conduct. The League will communicate with the Club via the Secretary and the process as well as any subsequent penalties, should they apply, shall be communicated to the club member via the club.
6. Club members found to have breached the League's codes of conduct shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to any correspondence issued to the club via the Secretary. Club members will be provided an opportunity to appeal any penalties issued within 30 days of the penalties being distributed.
7. Repeated breaches of the Senior Player or Supporter Code of Conduct by a Senior Player or Supporter may result in a Senior Player or Supporter being de-registered from the Club.
8. A Club member or supporter failing to curb the offending behaviour will be asked to leave the venue or event. If a Club member or supporter refuses to leave the playing venue or event, the League will be contacted and if deemed appropriate, the police. (For incidents that occur at Club home games the Game Day Ground/Court Manager or other Club Official will take responsibility for ensuring the Club member leaves the playing venue. For away games the Ground/Court Manager or any other Club or League Official will assume responsibility).
9. The Club member or supporter will not be permitted to return to the venue, game or club event until such time as the Club Executive via the Club Secretary receives a written explanation and assurance that behaviour contrary to the Code of Conduct will not be repeated.
10. Throughout the process of dealing with code of conduct breaches, the club and offending member(s) or supporters will provide their full cooperation to the Club and League and provide information as requested within the stated timelines outlined by the Club and League.
11. Any incident that occurs on match day or at Club events that the Club feels the League should follow up on should complete the provided incident report sheet and mail it to the League either in the post or with the match day paperwork.
12. The club agrees to take responsibility for the actions of their members and will endeavor to work with the League to ensure anyone who breaches a code of conduct is held responsible for their actions.

My Club and the League are committed to ensuring that natural justice and privacy of people involved in the breach are dealt with sensitively, irrespective of the alleged breach to the Code of Conduct.



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