



1.2.4. Code of Conduct

We all have a responsibility to provide high standards of behaviour and respect on and around the football fields.

Here are some extracts from the Football Federation of Australia's (FFA) Code of Behaviour:

JUNIOR PLAYERS

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, complain, or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee, or my coach/manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club member protection officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

SENIOR PLAYERS

Thousands of match officials drop out each season because of the abuse and intimidation they receive on and off the pitch.

Respect your referee today and you may just get one for every match this season.

Play your part and always observe FFA's Respect Code of Conduct for players.

- Adhere to the Laws of The Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote Fair Play • Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation, or harassment
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition, and my coach/manager with respect
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Win or lose with dignity
- Shake hands with the opposing team and the referee at the end of every game.

PARENTS AND CARERS

Parents and Carers have a responsibility to support your child's football activities in a positive way on and off the field.

This includes being a role model and encouraging good behaviour in not only your own child but also their teammates, coach, manager, and other spectators.

Supporting your child and their team is natural, but it needs to be done in a positive and supportive way in a harassment-free environment.

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose.
- Encourage children 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 competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials, and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

MATCH OFFICIALS

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the side-lines.

- Play your part and always observe FFA's Respect Code of Conduct for match officials.
- Be always honest and completely impartial
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm, and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Always support my match official colleagues
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match

- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

Please click on the below for more information:

[FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour](#)

[FFA Respect Campaign](#)