

Code of Conduct Policy



Purpose

This policy demonstrates the commitment of committee members, officials, and volunteers of the North Hobart Junior Football Club (the Club) to behavioural standards at community sport by providing Codes of Conduct the Club has developed to enforce these.

Policy Statement

All members who are a part of the Club have a right to have a positive football experience. The welfare of our members will always be our priority and the Club has a zero tolerance towards abusive and unsatisfactory behaviour. The Club strives to create safe and friendly environment where Members and opposition feel safe, are safe, have fun and learn the benefits of good culture and team behaviour.

Implementation

The STJFL Code of Conduct is provided during STJFL registration process and each player or official who registers is deemed to have read and agreed to abide by the behaviours and penalties outlined within the material. For the avoidance of doubt the Club extends both the STJFL Code of Conduct and the Club Code of Conduct below beyond game day to cover training activities and all Club related and Member to Member communications.

Players Code of Conduct

- Play by the laws and rules
- Never talk back to the umpire
- Don't argue
- Never bully
- Control your temper
- Be a team player
- Be a good sport
- Treat all players fairly
- Cooperate with your coach and teammates
- Play for fun and improvement
- Never discriminate or abuse based on race, gender or religion.

Match and Training Disciplinary Measures

Youth – U12 to U18

Youth match day disciplinary measures are managed as per the Laws of the Game and the STJFL Tribunal. All youth players are expected to always abide by the Club Player Code of Conduct including training and team communications. Serious or repeated misconduct should firstly be reported to the Coach and Team Manager for resolution. Where any Member feels resolution is not effective the matter should be reported to the Committee for investigation and resolution in line with the Member Protection Policy.

Junior – Auskick to U12

- **Major Penalty**
 - Violence
 - Immediately benched for the game/training, and
 - Suspended for the following game.
 - Swearing
 - First offence - Benched for 10 min.
 - If repeated within the same game/training - Benched for remainder of game/training.
- **Minor Penalty**
 - Disrespect (Officials / Parents / Teammates / Opposition)
 - 1st and 2nd offences - Benched for 3 min
 - 3rd offence in same game/training. - Benched for remainder of game/training.
 - Sledging / Intimidation
 - 1st and 2nd offences - Benched for 3 min
 - 3rd offence in same game/training. - Benched for remainder of game/training.

Minor penalties are gentle behaviour reminders; when implementing these please gently support and remind the player as to why the penalty has been enforced and encourage them to go back out and be better, no formal reporting is necessary.

Where any Member feels Junior Match and Training Disciplinary measures are not proving effective in a particular case or not being enforced appropriately, the matter should be reported to the Committee for investigation and resolution in line with the Member Protection Policy.

Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct

- Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Focus on the child's efforts and self-esteem rather than whether they win or lose.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force participation upon them.
- Actively demonstrate and encourage respect and appreciation for the Coach, Team Manager, volunteers and the other team.
- Respect umpires' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or for the team losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best by example and applaud the efforts of all players in both teams.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse for sporting activities.
- Remember that smoking and the consumption of alcohol is unacceptable at junior sport.

Administration/Officials Code of Conduct

- Ensure equal participation for all: Provide equal opportunities for all regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Suitability of program: Ensure that the rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration age, ability and maturity level of the participants.
- Ensure adequate supervision: Adequate supervision must be provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Stress enjoyment: Remember that children participate for enjoyment.
- Arrange adult education: Develop improved standards of coaching and officiating with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique.
- Promote fair play: Ensure that parents, coaches, officials, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Modify to suit various levels: Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of participants and their needs.
- Promote respect for opponents: Condemn unsporting behaviour.
- Maximise enjoyment: Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principle of participation for fun and enjoyment
- Keep up to date: Make a personal commitment to keep informed of sound principles of administering recommended football programs for junior players.

Coaches Code of Conduct

This Coaches Code of Conduct is to be signed and conformed to as part of the accreditation requirements of the AFL. Coaches should be aware that, in addition to this code, they may be obliged to sign a further Code of Conduct/Ethics with their club and/or league.

I understand that as an integral component of my accreditation, I must maintain a standard of behaviour and conduct in the best interests of the game and the players/staff in my care. In representing myself in an honest manner, and without bringing the coaching profession or the game into disrepute, I will endeavour to uphold the following to the best of my ability:

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of my involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background or special ability/disability.
- I will abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the game and 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, having due consideration for their health and wellbeing.
- I will be supportive at all times and will refrain from any form of personal abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in my care.
- I will have due considerations for varying maturity and ability levels of my players when designing practice schedules, practice activities and involvement in competition.
- I will avoid playing the talented players, aiming to maximise participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability. Where I am responsible for players in the 5-12 age groups, I will ensure that all players gain equal playing time.
- I will stress and monitor safety always.
- In recognising the significance of injury and sickness, I will seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the return of injured or ill players to training.
- I will endeavour to keep informed with regard to sound principles of coaching and skill development, and to factors relating to the welfare of my players.
- I will at all times 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, other officials, parents and spectators.
- I will ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development as priorities are not overshadowed by a desire to win.
- I reject the use of performance-enhancing substances in sport and will abide by the guidelines set forth in the Anti-Doping and illicit Drugs Policies.

Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, prior to the commencement of each season, or as required by changes in legislation.

Last Revision: 21.04.22