



ESSENDON DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CODES OF CONDUCT

Expectations of Parents/Guardians and Spectators:

- Remember that children play football for fun – they are not playing for your entertainment, nor are they miniature professionals, involvement is for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage players to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the player's efforts – never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or losing the game. Teach that honest effort is the victory, not the winning.
- Remember that players learn best from example. Applaud good play by both teams.
- Encourage players to always participate according to the rules and respect official's decisions.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials.
- An umpire's job is a difficult one – put yourself in their position – how would you like to be treated?
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public. Raise any concerns privately.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing or using foul language to umpires, players, coaches, or other spectators.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Respect the rights and dignity of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Support all efforts to remove verbal, racial and physical abuse and to settle disagreement without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Discuss the Codes of Conduct with your son/daughter so that you are both aware of your obligations.
- Actively promote the Codes of Conduct and foster high standards of behaviour for your club at all times.

Please Note: Your failure to adhere to the Codes of Conduct may result in the withdrawal or suspension of your son (s)/daughters(s) registration to play in the EDFL.

Expectations of Players:

- Always play by the laws and rules – be a team player – be a good sport.
- Control your temper – treat others as you would like to be treated – bullying will not be tolerated
- Verbal abuse to umpires, officials, parents or other players is not acceptable.
- Never argue with an umpire or official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach.
- Cooperate, support and encourage your team mates. Your teams' performance will benefit, so will you. Don't forget to acknowledge opponents, officials and umpires, e.g. shake hands before and after the game.
- Play fair, respect the rights and dignity of all players regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Avoid ugly remarks based on race or gender.
- Play for the "fun of it" – remember it's just a game!