



Essendon District Football League

Code of Conduct

2024

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Code of Conduct

The Essendon District Football League (EDFL) is justifiably proud of the long history that Australian Football has played within this Region and State since the mid-nineteenth century. The past 150 years have witnessed significant achievements and created lifelong memories for hundreds of thousands of people. To ensure that Australian Football plays a significant part of our future for the next 150 years we need to be smarter about the way we preserve the traditions and values of our game.

One of the critical components of our game is the passion that people show for the team & club that they support. Whilst this passion is usually harnessed and used to support our game, it sometimes can boil over to create negative situations. We must all work together in the attempt to eliminate this negative passion.

Codes of Conduct are an integral component of sporting activities and the following codes compliment the good work of many football bodies over several years and the Australian Sports Commission requirement.

All Members of the Essendon District Football League (EDFL) shall adopt Member specific codes and the EDFL encourages Members to be vigilant in enforcing such codes whether via support for those who constantly abide by the codes and / or harsh penalties for those who fail to act in accordance with the codes.

Mandatory and Enforceable Codes of Conduct

The Essendon District Football League (EDFL) pledges to uphold the requirement to enforce a Code of Conduct as introduced by the AFL and AFL Victoria. All affiliated EDFL clubs are to enforce the following Code of Conduct within their club for all Coaches, Players, Parents, Supporters, Officials and Members. A member by default extends to family members of players of all age groups.

Coaches' Code of Conduct

Coaches are required to sign the AFL Code of Conduct as part of the Foundation Level Accreditation requirement.

All coaches must be accredited to coach in our League

- Abide by the Laws and Rules – always operate within the Laws of the Game and Rules of your club and the League and teach your players to do the same.
- Teach the Rules – rules are mutual agreements which nobody should break.
- Group players competitively – give all players equal attention and opportunities, everyone needs and deserves equal time.
- Avoid overplaying talented players – be reasonable in your demands on player's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Maximise fun – place winning in perspective, remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of it.
- Stress safety always – make sure equipment and facilities meet safety standards and suit the age and ability of your players.
- Consider maturity levels – devise training programs to suit all, ensure any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Develop team respect – for opponents, umpires, parents, officials, spectators and coaches.
- Recognise the importance of proper injury treatment – treat sick and injured players with care and seek professional advice on whether injured players are ready to resume training or competition.
- Keep up to date – with coaching practices and principles of physical growth and development. • Attain coaching accreditation and update regularly.
- Avoid derogatory language – based on gender or race, create opportunities for participants to learn appropriate sports behaviour, lead by example at all times.
- Respect to all – respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- I abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL Drug Policy and reject the use of performance enhancing substances in sport.
- Be supportive of any development strategies that are promoted by our governing body.

Officials/Umpires Code of Conduct

- Remember you are representing your club/league and setting an example to your players/parents. Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Apply rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of participants. Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating, sport safety policy and the principles of growth and development, place safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Try to resolve any conflict in a calm, sensible manner (when possible in private).
- Be aware of potential volatile situations at all times and be prepared to deal with them appropriately.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Administrators Code of Conduct

- Make your club environment user friendly by providing equal opportunities for all to participate, not just as a player. E.g. umpiring.
- Ensure programmes, rules etc. are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity of young people.
- Provide quality supervision and instruction and ensure they are well trained and set the right example.
- Direct coaches and officials to highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development.
- Ensure a Code of Conduct sheet is given to spectators, officials, parents, coaches and players and encourage them to follow it.
- Maximise child safety by conducting volunteer screening.
- Implement policy and practices in relation to responsible use of alcohol and performance enhancing drugs.
- Adopt and implement relevant sport safety policies and practices.
- Listen to your players and involve them in decisions, leadership, planning and evaluation relation to the club.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- For advice on any issues you can contact the EDFL Head Office or AFL Victoria for further assistance.

Parents, Guardians & Spectators Code of Conduct

- 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.

Players Code of Conduct

- 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!

General Supporters

The EDFL accepts that it is difficult for Clubs to control the behaviour of supporters who may not necessary be a member of their Club. All effort is to be made by Club officials to approach any supporter who is displaying a poor attitude towards players, umpires, or other supporters and attempt to change the behaviour of such supporters. In the event of such supporters being from an opposing Club, officials of the opposing Club should be approached to engage with the supporters.

By registering our child with the (insert club) we agree to abide by these principles. 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, parents and or spectators for repeated or serious breaches of these Codes of Conduct.

PLAYER: _____

(print name)

(signature)

PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

(print name)

(signature)

DATE: ____ / ____ / 2024