

Code of Behaviour

Whittlesea Ranges FC is committed to providing a sporting environment where each participant is a valued member of the club, where they are treated fairly and are given recognition for their contribution to the club's success. The club also aims to provide an environment that is pleasant for participants to train and play in and that is conducive to good sportsmanship.

At Whittlesea Ranges FC, harassment or discrimination whether verbal, physical or environmental is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. As part of the Rules of Competition Whittlesea Ranges FC have to follow the following Codes of Behaviour incorporated by the Australian Sports Commission template Code of Behaviour, the FFA National Code of Conduct and the FFA National Spectator Code of Behaviour.

The general principles for all persons involved in sport are as follows:-

- Operate within the Rules and spirit of Football, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity of where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into Disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by provoking or inciting hatred or violence, including crowd violence.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match;
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.

Player's Code of Behaviour

- Give your best at all times
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Play by the Rules.
- Do not argue with the Match Official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the Match Official during a break in play or after the Match is concluded.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Remove all jewellery prior to training and Match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.
- Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.

Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Help each person (athlete, official etc.) reach their potential - respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and compliment and encourage with positive and supportive feedback.
- Any physical contact with a person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications to be misrepresented.
- Be reasonable in your demands on younger player's time, energy and enthusiasm
- Teach your players to abide by the rules and Laws of the Game
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet a reasonable safety standard, and is appropriate to the age and ability of the players
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players
- Develop and enhance respect between players, opposition coaches and the decisions of the Match Official
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining the extent of a player's injury and beyond that, when players are returning from injury to training and Match play
 - Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to Coach Accreditation Criteria)

- Take time out to teach players (& others) the Laws of the Game, hence raising their awareness
- Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times
- Ensure players are good sports and ensure each team member shakes the hand of their opponents at the conclusion of every Match.
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline
- Remember the actions of yourself and your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them

Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct your responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.
- Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect your objectivity.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others.

Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.
- Praise and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects.
- Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members.
- Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing.
- Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive.

Parent's Code of Behaviour

- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

Spectator's Code of Behaviour

It is important that all spectators at a Football Federation Victoria (FFV) approved fixture are able to enjoy the Match in a safe and comfortable environment. Accordingly, each person present at a FFV fixture must:

- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach players to do the same;
- Never ridicule or unduly scold a player for making a mistake;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their race, colour, religion, language, political views, national or ethnic origin;
- Not engage in the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, team officials (including coaches) or players;
- Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form whether lawful or otherwise, including but not limited to the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;
- Comply with FFV's '**Conditions of Entry**', at all venues, and any ticketing conditions (Premier League and State League 1 only);
- Not carry, light or throw flares or missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators);
- Not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and
- Conduct them self in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of FFV, Football Federation Australia (FFA), and football generally.
- Any person who does not comply with this Code or who in the opinion of FFV causes or attempts to cause or is reasonably likely to cause a disturbance **may be evicted** from the venue and banned from attending future matches held under the auspices of FFV, for a period of up to 2 years from when the eviction occurred. Any offender who then breaches the ban order against them may be charged with trespass and subject to further penalties and sanctions, including the possibility of further legal action.
- It is the host Clubs responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

Racial and Religious Vilification Code

The FFV has endorsed a Racial and Religious Vilification Code for all Clubs and its players. Racial and Religious Vilification includes any act, otherwise than in private which:

- Is reasonably likely, in all circumstances, to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate another person or a group of people; and,
- Is done because of the race, colour, national or ethnic origin of the other person or some of or all of the people in the group.

- i. The Racial and Religious Vilification Code requires Clubs to:
- ensure that players and Club Associates do not engage in Racial and Religious Vilification against any person;
 - continuously educate their Players and Club Associates about Racial and Religious Vilification;
 - publish information on the subject of racial and religious vilification to players and Club Associates;
 - use their best endeavours to ensure that all Club Associates act in a manner which is consistent with the objectives of the Racial and Religious Vilification Code; and
 - adopt an action plan, which is contained in the Racial and Religious Vilification Code.

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