



WHITTLESEA RANGES FOOTBALL CLUB

2023/2024 CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose:

The code of conduct is in place to ensure that all players, parents/guardians, spectators, officials and volunteers have a very clear understanding of the behaviour that is expected of from everyone and to make it clearly understood that breaches of these codes will result in disciplinary action.

Whittlesea Ranges FC (WRFC) 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 WRFC, harassment or discrimination whether verbal, physical or emotional is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. As part of the Rules of Competition, WRFC have to follow the Codes of Behaviour incorporated by the Australian Sports Commission, 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 in the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decision 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 where a power imbalance exists) 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 decision and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe and harassment free 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.
- Do not bring the game into disrepute by engaging 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 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.

Players

All participants in our sport have a responsibility to promote respect and good behaviour to ensure our clubs and our game are free from all forms of bullying and abuse.

All players must abide by this Code of Conduct and demonstrate behaviours that promote a welcoming environment within our sport.

Responsibilities

- Participate for your own enjoyment and play fair, play by the rules, and play to the best of your ability, always.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.
- Respect the equipment and facilities provided to you as part of your program.
- Never behave in a manner that would damage the reputation of the club either on or off the field.
- Be a good sport, displaying modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Adhere to the club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements.
- Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including consumption of alcohol at any time.
- 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.
- Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, referees, and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take advantage of another player.
- Remove all jewellery prior to training and match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.
- Players MUST attend all training/recovery sessions and games and inform coaching staff if you cannot attend.
- Players that miss training sessions may get reduced or no game time unless previously negotiated with coaching staff regarding other commitments or education.
- Non-financial players (in full) = no game time.
- Any fines incurred by players or parents will be paid by the person/player who has incurred the fine.
- Disciplinary action to be decided by the Football department.
- If any injuries are sustained, Doctors clearance is required BEFORE you are accepted back onto the team for training or game day.
- No external training without prior approval from the club.
- Use of social media:
 - Players must not knowingly or recklessly do, write or say something which is likely to bring the club or game of Football into disrepute or cause the club or players to be in breach of this code.
 - Any players that post comments on any social media forum about the club, parents, players, committee or members that are deemed to be harassing, bullying, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting will face disciplinary action.

Spectators & Parents

All spectators of our game have a responsibility to promote respect and good behaviour to ensure our clubs, and our game, are free from all forms of bullying and abuse. All spectators and parents must abide by the Club's Conditions of Entry and demonstrate good quality behaviours that provide a welcoming environment within our sport.

All spectators attending a match or otherwise involved in any activity staged or sanctioned by FA, FV or an affiliate Regional Association or Club must:

Responsibilities

- Encourage children to participate have fun, focus on the efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Respect the decisions of match officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability and teach children to do the same.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Act as good role models and ambassadors for the club at all times.
- Adhere to smoke-free policies and not consume alcohol in any place other than where the clubs license allows.
- Remember that your child and all players participate in the sport of football for their enjoyment and not yours.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, language, politics, national or ethnic origin.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing players, coaches, or officials.
- Never use violence in any form towards another person including fellow spectators, players or match/team Officials (including coaches and ground marshalls).
- Not engage in acts of discrimination, harassment, or abuse towards any person, including the use of obscene or offensive language and/or gestures; and/or the incitement of hatred or violence.
- Never throw missiles, projectiles, or objects of any description at players, match officials, or fellow spectators.
- Parents, family or spectators of the players are not permitted to enter training grounds at any stage during or after training or recovery session. The only people allowed to enter the training grounds are coaching staff of WRFC.
- Use of social media:
 - Parents must not knowingly or recklessly do, write or say something which is likely to bring the club or game of Football into disrepute or cause the club or players to be in breach of this code.
 - Any parent that post comments on any social media forum about the club, parents, players, committee or members that are deemed to be harassing, bullying, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting will face disciplinary action.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Respect the performances and efforts of all participants including players, coaches and officials.

Any person who does not comply with this Spectator Code of Behaviour or who in the opinion of the Club and/or FV otherwise causes or is reasonably likely to cause a disturbance may be evicted from the venue and may be banned from attending future matches.

Any offender who then breaches a ban order against them may be charged with trespass and subject to further penalties and sanctions, including the possibility of legal action.