

Parent Expectations



CODE OF CONDUCT

We have established Codes of Conduct to document the standards of behaviour that are expected from all players, parents, supporters and officials of our club.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved with our club to ensure these principles are upheld and maintained. Those parents that have not accepted the terms of this document during the registration process, must sign and return this document to the Club. Breaches of these codes will not be tolerated and disciplinary action may be taken against offenders.

The Players Code of Conduct has been given to each player to read and sign and is published on our website. All Coaches and Assistant Coaches have adopted and signed the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct that is also available for viewing on our website.

All other individuals fulfilling volunteer roles at the club or is a related to individual teams, will also be asked to sign the Child Safety Code of Conduct. If they have not otherwise agreed to that code upon registration for the season.

THE PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

It is imperative that parents (and grandparents) understand that they are also bound by codes of behaviour and that any breaches may result in actions such as spectator bans.

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment—not yours.
- Encourage but do not force your children to participate.
- Focus on efforts and performance of the players and not on winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at any player for making a mistake or for a loss.
- Encourage children to always play according to the rules and the spirit of the game.
- Respect the decisions of officials and settle disagreements without hostility or abuse.
- Appreciate and recognise the good performance and skills of all players—not just your own.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators—without them your child could not participate in this sport.
- Never yell at or make derogatory remarks to an umpire—umpires at junior level are often youngsters trying their best albeit, at times, under difficult conditions. Like players, they too will make mistakes and we need to show the same level of tolerance of umpire's mistakes as we do for player's mistakes.
- All club officials volunteer their time and should not at any time, under any circumstances, be subjected to verbal or threatening abuse.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all players and officials regardless of their gender, ability, cultural or racial background or religion.
- Respect the roles and responsibilities of team officials on game days and not enter designated zone around team bench during play, unless at request of trainer or any other team official.
- These codes of conduct extend to social networking sites such as, but not solely, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter.

¹ For players in the U8–U12 teams, we ask for a parent to sign and say that their child has understood the behaviours expected of them.

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR

We want to create an environment for every player to play to the best of their ability. This can only be achieved if parents work with the Coaches to ensure that their children behave respectfully towards their Coach and attend training with the understanding that this is a proper training session that demands their full effort and attention. If children are to improve their football they need to be able to listen and follow instructions and understand that they are not there to mess around and distract others.

If your child has behavioural difficulties, we ask that you talk with your coaches about the best way to manage those issues and we may request additional support from yourselves.

VOLUNTEERING

Without parent involvement, the team cannot function properly and at a minimum the Club expects parents to complete their rostered duties as detailed by the Team Manager.

Parents are able to request certain duties that fit in with their time commitments / areas of expertise and of course if certain duties are not possible, then this can be explained up front to the Team Manager.

If parents are scheduled to perform a duty and are unable to complete it on the day, they must take responsibility for swapping with another parent so that the team and players are not disadvantaged.

In addition to match day duties, there are a host of other options available to parents who wish to be more involved, with anything from assisting at social events (running a raffle, helping set or pack up clubrooms) to providing first aid, taking photos / writing articles for the website etc.

The Committee are very open to new ideas and initiatives and would welcome input and assistance from any parent who is able to give some time to the Club.

COMMUNICATION

Means of Communication

Our preferred means of communication to players/parents is via Team App, email and our website. Team based communications may also be managed through WhatsApp. Please ensure the club has an email address you can be contacted on. Most information will be sent by your Team Manager, but important messages are often sent from the Club Secretary.

Team Managers prefer to communicate via SMS or WhatsApp for last minute changes, so please ensure any change to your mobile phone numbers are noted by your Team Manager.

Parents should not have unauthorised contact with children and young people online, by phone, by email (or other electronic communication) or by any other social media avenue.

We will also produce and distribute a regular newsletter, 'The Bear Facts' which will provide match reports and other relevant club information. If you do not receive your copy of 'The Bear Facts', please let us know.

Absences

Coaches and Team Managers must be informed of any absences from training and matches and the maximum amount of notice possible is requested to allow for contingency planning.

Issue Resolution / Escalation

If parents have any issues involving their child, either at training or on match day, this should always be discussed with the Coach and Team Manager. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, then further communication should be entered into with the Club President.

We ask all players, parents, officials and supporters of our club not to make direct contact of any nature (ie: by telephone, email, mail or any other form of communication) with any member of the SMJFL Executive or other Clubs. If you have an issue you would like raised, please speak with the Club President or Club Secretary.

CREATE A SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The Club prides itself on its welcoming and family friendly environment. One of the ways we achieve this environment is through our social events. The Club holds monthly 'Family Nights' that are hosted by one or two teams and we ask that the parents support these events through attendance and offering help on the night.

In addition to promoting camaraderie amongst the Club, these events are an opportunity for members to hear updates from the Committee and to raise funds necessary for the operation of our club.

I have read and understood this Parent Code of Conduct document and agree to abide by it at all times.

Name:

Team:

Parent Signature :

Date:

Those parents and guardians that have not accepted the terms of this Code of Conduct (on behalf of the player for which they are the parent or guardian) during the registration process must sign and return this form to the club.