



Ocean Grove Cobras Junior Football Club

CONDUCT & BEHAVIOUR POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Last Updated: March 2021

PURPOSE

To ensure the club provides a positive, inclusive and safe football experience for players, families and members.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Ocean Grove Cobras Junior Football Club has a commitment to provide a positive, inclusive and safe environment for all players, families and members. This document aims to clarify expectations and responsibilities for everyone involved in the club, including players, parents/carers, spectators, coaches and officials. Embedded in this document is a code of conduct (AFL Barwon) that all members will be required to adhere to. The club throughout the season will communicate with all members to promote an inclusive, fair and safe experience for all players.

The club will be guided by Play by the Rules and their Let Kids Be Kids campaign which aims to address poor sideline behaviour at junior sport (see www.playbytherules.net.au for more information).

BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Any club committee member, player, coach, volunteer, official, parent or family member in breach of the code of conduct will be subject to an investigation by the club's complaint handler.

Appropriate sanctions will be applied by the executive committee of the club. For complaint handling procedures please see club website.

PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play by the rules – abide by the AFL Laws of the Game and the rules of your Club and league/Association.
- Ensure that both on and off field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Swearing is unacceptable.
- Treat umpires and officials with respect. Do not abuse, dispute or react in an obviously provocative manner towards an umpire.
- Treat all players fairly. Ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities and not overshadowed by a desire to win.
- Display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents and spectators.
- Play for your own enjoyment, to improve your skills and further local football at club and league level.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



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JUNIOR COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT <http://www.afbarwon.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Jun-Coaches-CoD.pdf>

1. Be familiar with the Laws of Australian football and abide by the rules and conditions of your league and club.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements which no player should evade or break.
3. Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity whenever possible in any competitive practice session.
4. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time, if not more.
5. Remember that the players involved play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Emphasise the importance of the learning and development of skills and positive attitudes. Never ridicule or yell at your players for making mistakes or losing a competition.
6. Ensure that equipment and facilities meets safety standards and are appropriate for the age and ability of the players.
7. The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the player.
8. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
9. Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play or train again.
10. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound junior coaching principles and developments. Endeavour to attain coaching accreditation and to become an active member of the local branch of the Australian Football Coaches Association.
11. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race.
12. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sport.
13. Promote all activities to make your clubs a child safe environment.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT <http://www.afbarwon.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Parents-Spectators-CoD.pdf>

1. Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
2. Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember your child should be involved in football for their enjoyment, not yours.
7. Remember your child learns best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that your child is playing in so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your child far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race.
13. Promote all activities to make your clubs a child safe environment.