

**NORTHERN
FOOTBALL LEAGUE
INCORPORATED**



**SCHEDULE 17:
CODES OF CONDUCT**

**Adopted
2010**

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CODES OF CONDUCT

The Northern Football League is justifiably proud of the long history that Australian Football has played within this State since the mid-nineteenth century. There have been many significant achievements and created lifelong memories for hundreds of thousands of people. To ensure that Australian Football plays a significant part of our future, the football community must continue to develop ways to 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 Northern Football League shall adopt Member specific codes and The Northern Football League 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 FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS, SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIALS

The Northern Football League fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL and AFL Victoria. All clubs are to enforce a Code of Conduct within their club for officials, players, and members. A member by default extends to family members of players of all age groups.

1. COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1.1 Coaches are required to sign the AFL Code of Conduct as part of the Level 1 Accreditation requirement.
- 1.2 All coaches must be accredited to coach in our League.

Note:

- The following are suggested items that should form part of a Club Code of Conduct.

2. PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- 2.1 Play by the rules – the rules of your club and the laws of the game.
- 2.2 Never argue with an umpire or other official – without these people, you can't play football.
- 2.3 Control your temper – verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games.
- 2.4 Be a team player – It's a team game, treat it that way.
- 2.5 Treat all players as you would like to be treated – fairly.
- 2.6 Co-operate with your coach, the umpires and team-mates.

- 2.7 Play for your own enjoyment & to improve your skills.
- 2.8 Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your coach, teammates and family if you do – and many such comments are actually now illegal.

3. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- 3.1 Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- 3.2 Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- 3.3 Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- 3.4 Never ridicule mistakes or losses – supporters are there to support not downgrade.
- 3.5 Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- 3.6 Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time.
- 3.7 Never publicly criticise umpires – raise personal concerns with club officials in private.
- 3.8 Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your family and yourself if you do – and many such comments are actually now illegal.

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 NAME: _____
(print name) *(signature)*

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____
(print name) *(signature)*

DATE: ____ / ____ / 20 ____

4. GENERAL SUPPORTERS

The NFL accepts that it is difficult for Clubs to control the behavior 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 behavior 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.