



Williamstown Soccer Club

Outlined in this document are the various Codes of Behaviour that the Committee of Williamstown Soccer Club has identified and endorsed for all members and supporters of the Club.

These Codes of Behaviour clearly identify and outline the expected types of behaviour the Committee requires from any person that is acting as a representative of the Williamstown Soccer Club in any number of different capacities.

If members of our club feel that other members within the club are not fully respecting the Codes of Behaviour then these members should feel free to address these concerns to any member of the current committee for further investigation. If the committee believes that breaches of the Codes of Conduct have occurred then the offending person/s will be counselled to understand and modify their behaviour to prevent any further reoccurrences of the behaviour. In the event of repeated or serious breaches of any of the Codes of Conduct, the Committee, at its discretion, can suspend or ultimately withdraw the offending person/s membership from the Club.

Please be mindful that this document covers the activities and behaviour of our Club's members & supporters only. While we would expect that members & supporters of opposition clubs would follow a very similar model for Codes of Behaviour, the Committee is not in a position to take direct action against members from opposing clubs. If members do encounter behaviour from opposing team members or supporters which they believe is in breach of Codes of Behaviour then this behaviour should be documented and reported to a member of the committee ASAP. The committee is able to raise a formal letter of Complaint to the Offending Club and/or the FFV, if appropriate, outlining the behaviour that occurred and requesting that a form of action be taken to ensure the behaviour is not repeated.

It is important to remember that in the "heat of the moment" members of Williamstown Soccer Club are still expected to behave in the manner outlined in this document, lowering our actions to the level of the offending club's members or seeking to extract "revenge" are not appropriate courses of action.

This document covers the following areas where a Code of Conduct is deemed extremely important:

1. Players Code of Behaviour
2. Coaches Code of Behaviour
3. Administrators Code of Behaviour
4. Parents Code of Behaviour
5. Match Officials (Club Appointed) Code of Behaviour
6. Volunteers and Spectators Code of Behaviour

1. PLAYERS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (ALL LEVELS)

- a) Play by the Rules and within the spirit of the game;
- b) 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;
- c) Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport;
- d) Maintain your focus and work hard for yourself and your team;
- e) Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition;
- f) Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player;
- g) Cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition;
- h) Play for your own enjoyment, and not just to please parents and coaches;
- i) Remove all jewellery prior to training and match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you;
- j) Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.
- k) Adhere to club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements.

2. COACHES CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (ALL LEVELS)

- a) Remember that players participate for the fun of it and that winning is not everything;
- b) Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or being in a losing team;
- c) Be reasonable in your demands on younger players time, energy and enthusiasm,
- d) Teach your players to abide by the Rules and Laws of the Game;
- e) Ensure that equipment and facilities meet a reasonable safety standard and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players;
- f) Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players;
- g) Develop and enhance respect between players, opposition coaches and the decisions of the match official;
- h) Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to Coach Accreditation Criteria);
- i) Take time out to teach players (& others) the Laws of the Game, hence raising their awareness;
- j) Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times;
- k) Ensure players are good sports and ensure each team member shakes the hand of their opponents at the conclusion of every match;
- l) Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline;
- m) Remember the actions of yourself and your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them.
- n) Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the Club's policies.

3. ADMINISTRATORS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- a) Give all players equal opportunities to participate;
- b) Ensure the rules, equipment, length of games and training principles suit the age, ability and maturity level of participants;
- c) Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players;
- d) Help coaches and match officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating;
- e) Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not a winning at all costs approach;
- f) 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;
- g) Make every effort to educate persons who breach these guidelines from time to time.
- h) Adhere to club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements.

4. PARENTS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- a) Remember that children play the sport for their enjoyment, and not yours;
- b) Encourage all children to participate, do not force them;
- c) Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than the result of the activity (that is, winning or losing);
- d) Encourage children to always participate according to the rules;
- e) Never ridicule, yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game;
- f) Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both teams;
- g) Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities;
- h) Respect the match official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise;
- i) Show respect and appreciation to Club officials, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels;
- j) Do not enter the field of play or its surrounds without the authority to do so;
- k) Adhere to club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS (CLUB APPOINTED) CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- a) Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players;
- b) Praise and encourage all participants;
- c) Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions;
- d) Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents;
- e) Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects;
- f) Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words;
- g) Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing;
- h) Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive;
- i) Adhere to club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements.

6. VOLUNTEERS AND SPECTATORS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- a) Respect the decisions of Match Officials;
- b) Respect the rights & dignity of every person regardless of their race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin;
- c) Do not engage in the use of violence in any form;
- d) Do not engage in discrimination, harassment, or abuse in any form, including obscene or offensive language or gestures, indecent or racist chanting;
- e) Do not carry, light or throw flares or other missiles at players, officials or other spectators;
- f) Do not enter the field of play or its surrounds without the authority to do so;
- g) Must conduct themselves in a manner that enhances the reputation of the Williamstown Soccer Club;
- h) Adhere to club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements.

I have read and agree to abide by the Codes of Conduct and understand that if I breach any of the Codes, disciplinary action will result.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

Parent signature to accompany where the participant is under 18

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____