



GOOD SPORTS



GOOD SPORTS

ANGLE VALE FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

A Good Sports Club committed to providing a healthier environment for families

Senior Code of Conduct

All people involved in Australian Rules have a right to participate in a safe healthy and supportive environment. As Administrators, Officials, Players, Coaches and Spectators, we all have a responsibility and role to play in creating and maintaining this environment. Our great game has always faced challenges but never more than those facing us today. There is no doubt that the biggest challenge is that of attracting people to participate in all aspects of the game such as young children to take up the sport, umpires, spectators and volunteers to act as officials, coaches, trainers, canteen assistants and so on. The recently released AFL report clearly recognises this as our major task for the future. It is therefore crucial that we all play our part in creating this safe, healthy, supportive and family friendly environment, which will attract people to participate in the various aspects of the game, mentioned above.

To that end, the South Australian Amateur Football League, in consultation with its member clubs and supporters, has developed a "Code of Behavior". The Code sets standards of conduct and behavior for all participants and also reflects how we would all like to be treated by others; That is, fairly, equally and with respect and dignity. As a member club of the SAAFL, Angle Vale Football Club endorses and adopts the SAAFL Code, as we to believe it is critical to the future health and success of this League and our club.

ADMINISTRATORS

- Involve club personnel in planning, leadership and decision making related to the Club. Give all people equal opportunities to participate.
- Create opportunities for people to participate in all facets of the game (players, coaches, club officials, umpires etc)
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behavior and skill development and help improve the standards of coaching and officials.
- Set the example by providing Code of Behavior sheets to all participants and encourage all to follow the expectations.
- Ensure appropriate rules and regulations are implemented that emphasise fair play and encourage enjoyment and sportsmanship.
- Treat all clubs as equals not on their levels or grades.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Administer discipline in a just and fair but in a positive and supportive manner.

- Role model appropriate behavior by demonstrating integrity, equity and fairness.
- Respect the rights, dignity and wish of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

CLUB OFFICIALS

- Compliment and encourage all participants in an objective and courteous manner.
- Condemn unsporting behavior and promote fair play and respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than concentrate on negatives.
- As Officials, set the example by role modelling behavior, which is positive and supportive and demonstrates integrity and fairness.
- Remember, as officials, you set the example. Your behavior should be positive and supportive. You are a role model.
- Be responsible for the conduct of your players, spectators and officials.
- Accept responsibility for the safety and welfare of players, umpires and officials above all else.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Give all people a “fair go” regardless of their gender, ability, rural background or religion.

PLAYERS

- Play by and adhere to the rules.
- Value safety, fair play and welfare above personal prestige and gain.
- Accept the authority of all umpires and game officials.
- Never argue with umpires. If you disagree, have your captain approach the umpire during a break or after the match.
- Never use foul language.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of umpires and other players, deliberately distracting or picking on opponents are not acceptable or permitted behavior in any sport.
- Do not question the actions of an umpire. He will not change his decision!
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good play, whether by team mates or opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport, as you would like to be treated.
- Always cooperate with your coach and team mates and also with your opposition, as without them there would be no competition.
- Always participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents, other persons or coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Attend all scheduled practice sessions, arriving on time and staying until finished. Early departure for any reason must be negotiated with the Coach.
- Advise the Coach at the earliest opportunity if they are unable to attend practice or re unavailable for any matches.

- If a player is unable to attend practice on a regular basis, they must make specific alternate arrangements with the Coach.
- Players selected to represent the AVFC are expected to play the game aiming for the highest possible standard of performance and sportsmanship.
- Players are expected to wear the Club Polo Shirt, or similar club attire to and from all games.
- Players must wear the correct coloured shorts and socks with SAAFL logo - no other uniform substitutes permitted.
- Players are responsible to know the details of the venue for matches and to arrive at the time specified by the Coach.
- Players are expected to support the Club by returning to the clubrooms after matches.

COACHES

- Role model appropriate behavior by acting with integrity and professionalism. Remember that the coach is likely to have the greatest influence on the behavior of players and spectators.
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or not winning.
- Control your temper, do not sledge
- Be reasonable in your demands on your player's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game, teaching your players to do the same.
- Accept the umpire's decision and get on with the game. Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience.
- All players deserve equal attention and opportunity. Avoid over playing the talented players, the just average need and desire equal time. Remember that, people usually participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun. Treat each person as an individual.
- Be responsible for decisions and the consequence of actions having utmost regard for high standards.
- Ensure that all equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, parents, friends and supporters. Encourage your players to do the same.
- Do not tolerate behavior that may incite players and spectators against any on field official or public display of displeasure.
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players. Follow the advice of physicians or trainers when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or playing.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up with the latest coaching practices and rules of the sport.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

SPECTATORS

- Appreciate that people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not necessarily yours.
- Respect the decision of officials/umpires and encourage players to do so.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and the team. Congratulate all players on their performance regardless of the outcome.
- Never ridicule players for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without whom there would be no game.
- Encourage all players to follow the rules and official's decisions.
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

UMPIRES

- Compliment and encourage all players.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making your decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behavior and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors.
- Encourage and promote rule changes, which will make participation more enjoyable.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up with any rule changes that may occur.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else.
- Set the example by your behavior and ensure that comments are positive and supportive.
- Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
- Give all players a "fair go" regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

NON PLAYER BREACHES

Breaches by non playing members are to be drawn to the attention of the General Committee who will investigate and determine any necessary penalties to be imposed at their discretion.

PLAYER BREACHES

Any alleged breaches of this code of conduct by playing members are to be brought to the attention of the General Committee who will form a Disciplinary Sub-Committee to investigate the report. This sub-committee is to be made up of a senior coach, the club president (or other general committee member) & a member from the senior leadership group. The disciplinary sub-committee will determine if the incident is sufficient to fall within a club offence category and if so, will investigate further & convene a hearing at their discretion if deemed necessary. They will then determine what penalty is to be applied taking into account any relevant considerations and applicable defences. This action is separate to any penalty that may or may not be handed down by the League for incidents reported to them.

OFFENCE CATEGORIES

Minor Offences:

- Actions likely to cause the player to be reported under SAAFL rules, umpire abuse, team mate abuse, interaction with opposing supporters, disobeying coaching instructions, deliberately causing disharmony among the playing group, arguing with team mates, coaching or support staff, vilifying in any manner, team mates coaching or support staff, endangering the health of team mates or self, failing to alert coaching staff of unavailability to play or train or any action the coaching staff may see causing harm to the club.

Serious Offences:

- Physically dangerous actions toward team mates, opposition or others, playing or training under the influence of illegal drugs, playing or training while intoxicated with alcohol, receiving a second warning in one season, language abuse of trainers or water carriers, including opposition, and intentionally damaging club property.

Grave Offences:

- Physical attacks on team mates, coaching and support staff, physical attacks on any non playing personnel from another club, disclosing confidential information to opposing teams, racial vilification of opponents, team mates or any person at the ground.

PENALTIES

Minor Offence:

- 1st time – a Warning will be given, or community service
- 2nd time - possible suspension from playing or suspended sentence, community service
- 3rd time or more - suspended from playing from 1 game to indefinite

Serious Offence:

- 1st time - Suspended sentence or suspended for 1-4 games, and/or community service
- Repeat - suspended indefinitely or registration cancelled, and/or community service

Grave Offence:

- 1st time - suspended indefinitely or registration cancelled Repeat - registration cancelled, and/or permanent ban from the club.

All suspended sentences must have their duration stipulated as any further penalties incurred will cause the suspended sentence to have to be served in addition to further penalties. After one year without further offences, a suspended sentence lapses.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As a penalty, community service can include but is not limited to:

- Bar service
- Thursday Night meal preparation, and/or service
- Boundary or Goal umpiring,
- Being the team Runner
- Cleaning the Club's property, and
- Any other matter as determined by the disciplinary sub-committee as fulfilling these criteria.

The type and length of community service is at the discretion of the disciplinary sub-committee.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually to ensure it remains current, relevant, practical, and that it reflects the community expectations as well as the club's legal requirements.

Signed
Club President
Date:

Signed
Club Secretary
Date:

PLAYER AGREEMENT

I,

....., hereby commit, to the best of my ability, to uphold the Angle Vale Football Club Players Code of Conduct. I understand that as an integral component of my registration for inclusion with the Angle Vale Football Club is that I must maintain a standard of behaviour and conduct that is in the best interests of the club, the game, my fellow players, the League, and all other volunteers and club members. I will represent myself in an honest manner and without bringing the Team, the Club or the Game into disrepute; I will endeavour to uphold all of this to the best of my ability:

SIGNATURE OF PLAYER:..... DATE: / /

