



Respect

Codes of Conduct

Junior Players, Parents, Coaches and Managers



The following Code of Conduct has been printed and will be distributed to each Association/Zone via their Member Federation. Clubs should have each team between the ages of 5 and 17 complete the Codes of Conduct and return to their Club Secretary within the first four weeks of competition.

Young Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. As a player, you have a big part to play. That's why Football Federation Australia is asking every player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct.

When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club member protection officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club or competition administrator. I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team and the referee
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club.

In addition:

My club or competition administrator may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct

The competition administrator could impose a fine, suspension or loss of competition points against my team or club.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have a responsibility to support your child's football activities in a positive way on and off the field. This includes being a role model and encouraging good behaviour in not only your own child but also their team mates, coach, manager and other spectators.

Supporting your child and their team is natural, but it needs to be done in a positive and supportive way in a harassment-free environment.

As a parent I will:

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose.
- Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club or competition administrator. I may:

- Be required to apologise to other parents, the other team and the referee
- Receive a formal warning from the club committee
- Be suspended from attending matches
- My child's registration may be cancelled



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Senior Players



The following Code of Conduct has been included into the MyFootballClub senior player registration process from 1 January 2012.

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

Players tell us they want a referee for every match, yet thousands of match officials drop out each season because of the abuse and intimidation they receive on and off the pitch.

Respect your referee today and you may just get one for every match this season.

Play your part and observe FFA's **Respect Code of Conduct** for players at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere to the Laws of The Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote Fair Play
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manager with respect
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Win or lose with dignity. Shake hands with the opposing team and the referee at the end of every game.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, Association/Zone or the Member Federation:

- Be required to apologise to team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a warning from the coach
- Receive a written warning from the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined
- Be required to leave the club.



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Match Officials



The following Code of Conduct has been included into the MyFootballClub match official registration process from 1 January 2012.

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

Play your part and observe FFA's **Respect Code of Conduct** for match officials at all times.

I will:

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Support my match official colleagues at all times
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, Association/Zone or Member Federation.

I may be:

- Required to meet with my own, Association/Zone or Member Federation Refereeing Committee.
- Receive a written warning from the club committee
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for appointment to matches
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined



Respect

Team Points Competition



This is a competition aimed at bringing together on-field performance, fair play and good administration.

Who Is Involved?

Teams competing in the top level of male and female competitions within the Member Federation (strongly recommended).

Teams competing in all competitions directly conducted by the Member Federation (recommended).

How does it work?

- Each Team is allocated 25 Respect points for each regular season match.
- Points are added to reward positive play, good behaviour and good administration.
- Points are deducted for poor player behaviour.
- Teams whose nominated coach has been sent from the technical area by a match official during any regular season match shall not be eligible to progress in the competition.

The Teams from each Member Federation – one male and one female - with the highest average number of Respect points at the end of the season will go into a national selection process for a prize provided by FFA.

Only matches in the regular season are to be included – i.e. not Cup, pre-season or finals matches.

Pts	Reason and Comments
+1	For each goal scored - rewards positive play
+5	If team receives no Cautions or Send Offs in a match - rewards positive behaviour
+3	If team submits team sheets to referee in accordance with comp regulations – rewards good administration
+3	If team(s) match balls to referee in accordance with comp regulations - rewards good organisation
-1	Cautions codes C1, C3, C6, C7
-2	Cautions Codes C2, C4, C5 *
-3	Send Off Codes S1, S4, S5, S7
-6	Send Off Codes S2, S3, S6 *

* These codes are aligned with “Respect” issues and therefore weighted more heavily

At the end of the regular season each Member Federation will be asked to nominate their best male and female team to FFA.



Respect

Silent Saturday

Silent Sunday



"Silent Saturday" has been used overseas with a great deal of success. Its main purpose is to just let the kids play and have fun without having to worry about how their performance is affecting the adults on the sidelines.

It's aimed at the Under 5 to Under 17 age groups.

The objectives of holding a "Silent Saturday" or "Silent Sunday" are:

- To reemphasise that the game is about letting the kids play and have fun.
- To give the players a chance to play totally on their own.
- To eliminate the verbal questioning of the referees' decisions.
- To help the few parents and coaches who feel they must provide constant direction, and to understand that the kids can play very well on their own with limited instruction.

Kids have the right to play without having to hear:

"Wake up! Don't just stand there!" "You have GOT to be kidding me!"
"Why do I waste my time coming?" "Watch the game ref you might enjoy it."
"Kick it ! Kick it !"

How does it work?

The day is conducted on either Saturday or Sunday when local junior matches are played and is in force for all age groups from Under 8 to Youth. The day will be conducted during Grassroots Football month.

A promotional A4-flyer will be provided in Microsoft Word format that Associations can tailor to their own requirements (date, etc) for use by the Association and their Clubs. Alternatively Associations can advise FFA by 28 February of the appropriate date and nominated charity/charities and FFA will arrange for flyers to be printed (multiples of 100 up to 500 in total per Association).

Associations

Each Association needs to select one junior match day during the Grassroots Football month on which the day will be conducted.

The Association can select one or more charities to benefit from donations gathered from teams during the course of the day. The level of 'donation' can be determined by each Association.

Promotion of the day can be conducted through local media, website presence and email distribution (as appropriate).

Clubs

Clubs should have 'roaming ambassadors' with silver cards that they can show to parents, coaches or managers who don't follow the day's objectives. The ambassador can request that the team make a donation to the Association's specified charity/charities.

Spectators

Please be advised that you may not make any verbal comments on the game or direct any comments to the players, referees or coaches - on or off the field.

Clapping IS allowed! Be creative in how you choose to cheer your child's team - make signs to hold up, bring a scarf in the team's colour and wave it wildly, there are lots of ways to cheer other than verbally.

Coaches and Managers

You may not provide any direction - verbal or non-verbal - to players who are on the field.

You may speak quietly to any players that are on the bench, but DO NOT give those players instructions to yell out to their teammates!

Coaches may address the players in a normal tone before and after the game, during water breaks and during halftime.

Players

Players are encouraged to speak to each other on the field and are free to support and provide direction to each other.

Players on the bench may cheer in a positive manner, but may not provide direction to those on the field.

Referees

Referees have been instructed that if spectators and coaches are not following the rules the referees are to request that the team manager talk to the spectators or coach.

At the end of the match the referee can inform the home Club whether the spectators and coaches from both teams followed the day's objectives. Give them a score out of 5 – where '1' is low and '5' is really good.