



# AFL MASTERS SA Code of Conduct

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# Code of Conduct

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## INTRODUCTION

AFL Masters SA enables mature players (over 35) the opportunity to participate in Australian Rules Football, and compete with similarly aged players in a safe, well organised and enjoyable atmosphere.

## THE POLICY

The Code of Conduct covers both on-field and off-field activities related to AFL Masters SA. It covers verbal as well as physical conduct and applies to all players, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators.

No player, coach, administrator, official or spectator shall speak to, at, or about, abuse, threaten, assault, disparage, vilify, insult or engage in conduct which may be considered to incite hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of, or discrimination against a person or group of persons on the basis of that persons:

- race;
- religion;
- gender;
- physical characteristics;
- colour;
- decent;
- national or ethnic origin;
- sexual preference, orientation or identity; or
- special ability or disability.

## PLAYERS

- Play by the rules at all times.
- Never argue with an official; if you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach after the game.
- Play in the Spirit of Masters football. This being, the game should be played in such a way that no player is harmed by another player. The responsibility of all players is to look after the welfare of others. Remember, Masters football is football for Fun, fitness & Friendship.
- Control your temper; verbal abuse or racial or religious vilification of other players, or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
- Be a team player, work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.

## COACHES

- Be reasonable in your demands consider players' time, energy and enthusiasm levels.
- Avoid over playing the talented players; the just 'average players' players need and deserve equal time. Keep winning in perspective; maximize players' participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Stress safety always; ensure equipment and facilities are safe.
- Consider maturity levels; match up practice's schedules, practice activities and degree of competition with maturity levels.
- Develop team respects; for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Recognise the importance of injury; seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the return of injured players to training.
- Keep informed with sound principles of coaching and skill development.
- Teach fair play, help players understand the responsibilities and implications of freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.

## ADMINISTRATORS/OFFICIALS

- Ensure equal participation for all; provide equal opportunities for all regardless of ability, size, shape, age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that the rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration age, ability and maturity even of the participants.
- Stress enjoyment; remember that players participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Promote fair play, ensure that coaches, officials, sponsored physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Where appropriate modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of participants and their needs
- Promote respect for opponents and condemn unsporting behaviour.

## SPECTATORS

- Applaud good performance and efforts from each team.
- Congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect officials' decisions at all times Remember all officials are there for the fun (of the game and are volunteers; as such all should be treated with respect.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the official's decisions.
- Do not use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials.
- Each club state or territory is responsible for the behaviour of their spectators and officials during and at the conclusion of their games.

## **PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING OF BREACHES**

Any person (the complainant) including Umpires, Players, Administrators/Officials or Spectators who witnesses a breach of the AFL Masters SA Code of Conduct shall report such incident directly to the Complaints Officer.

Reports of minor indiscretions or incidents may be reported verbally. Incidents of a serious nature can initially be communicated verbally but must be followed up in writing within 24Hrs of the occurrence.

## **INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES**

Any verbal or written report of a breach of the Code of Conduct shall be heard by the Executive Committee who shall convene a meeting at the earliest possible time to investigate the alleged incident.

The complainant may, if desired, remain anonymous to all but the Executive Committee who shall keep the person's identity confidential.

The Executive Committee will fully investigate all aspects of the reported incident and must consult with all parties involved, all the time maintaining the complainant's confidentiality if requested.

The Executive Committee shall report the outcome of their investigations firstly to the offending party, secondly to the complainant, thirdly to all Club Members and be fully reported in the Minutes of the next Executive Committee Meeting. The opposition club shall also be informed in writing of the action taken.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PRESCRIBED PENALTIES**

The Executive Committee have the authority and power to impose any or all of the prescribed penalties as defined in the AFL Masters SA Constitution & By Laws upon any Club, Player, Administrator or Official if found guilty.

The Executive Committee also have the authority and power to impose any or all of the prescribed penalties as defined in the AFL Masters SA Constitution & By Laws if the Committee deems the complainant's report to be frivolous, unjust, spiteful or intended to unfairly injure or discriminate against any person or persons.

## **APPOINTMENT OF COMPLAINTS OFFICER**

The AFL Masters SA has appointed a Complaints Officer to ensure that any breach of this Policy is responded to in a timely and efficient manner.

The Contact is the Association Secretary at Email: [secretary@aflmasterssa.com.au](mailto:secretary@aflmasterssa.com.au)