



AFL MASTERS SA Code of Conduct

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Code of Conduct

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



Grading Classifiable Offences

An umpire must grade classifiable offences (for Set Penalty usage) in accordance with the following table:

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Set Penalty
Intentional	Severe	All	Tribunal
	High	High/Groin	Tribunal
		Body	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin	1 Match
		Body	Reprimand
Careless	Severe	All	Tribunal
	High	High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin	1 Match
		Body	Reprimand
	Low	High/Groin	Reprimand
		Body	Reprimand

IMPACT GUIDELINES

Low – Minimal or no impact on the game, and Player continues to play unabated or was able to play, and No ongoing issues.

Medium – Clearly some impact on the Player, and / or the Player left the field for a lengthy period of time, and / or some possible lower level ongoing treatments.

High – Major impact on the player, and / or Was not able to participate in the remainder of the game, and / or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and / or May miss some matches.

Severe – Major impact and serious injury to the player, and / or Likely to miss a significant number of matches.

Note – These are proposed base level impact guidelines. The impact can be raised under the potential to cause serious injury.



SET PENALTY GUIDE FOR REPORTABLE OFFENCES

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Reprimand</u>	<u>1 week</u>	<u>2 weeks</u>	<u>Tribunal</u>
19.2.2 (a)	(i) striking another person				
	(ii) kicking, (iii) kneeing, or (iv) stomping another person				
	(v) charging another person				
	(vi) engaging in unreasonable rough conduct				
	(vii) bumping or forceful contact to an opponent front on				
	(viii) head-butting an opponent				
	(ix) eye-gouging or making contact to the eye region				
	(x) making unnecessary contact to the face				
	(xi) making unnecessary contact with an injured player				
	(xii) scratching or 19.2.2 (t) pinching another person				
	(xiii) tripping whether by hand, arm, foot, or leg				
19.2.2 (b)	intentionally making contact with an umpire				
19.2.2	(c) Attempting to or (d) Carelessly making contact with an umpire				
19.2.2 (e)	spitting at or on an umpire				
19.2.2 (f)	spitting at or on another person				
19.2.2 (g)	attempting to strike another person				
19.2.2 (h)	attempting to kick another person				
19.2.2 (i)	attempting to trip by hand, arm, foot, or leg				
19.2.2 (j)	using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language				
19.2.2 (k)	using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language to an umpire				
19.2.2 (l)	behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner to an umpire				
19.2.2	(m) disputing a decision or (x) an order of an umpire ie: failing to leave playing surface				
19.2.2 (n)	use of an obscene gesture				
19.2.2 (q)	engaging in a melee (except where sole intention is to remove a teammate)				
19.2.2 (r)	instigating a melee				
19.2.2 (s)	wrestling another person				
19.2.2 (z)	engaging in any other act of misconduct				

1. The reporting Umpire/s should refer to the attached 'Grading Classifiable Offences' matrix to assist in determining the appropriate penalty.
2. If the reporting Umpire/s determine the reportable offence deserves a penalty greater than what the Set Penalty Guide provides for, then the matter should be referred directly to the Match Review Panel or Tribunal. (MRP only applicable to Leagues using such system)



SET PENALTY SHEET

Date: / / Match: Vs

League: Grade:

1. In accordance with the Set Penalty guide, an Umpire can offer a Reported Player a Set Penalty, inclusive of a Reprimand. Should an Umpire's report be received by the League without this sheet attached, it will be deemed that no Set Penalty was offered and the matter be dealt with by the Match Review Panel or Tribunal. (MRP only applicable to Leagues using this system)
2. Should more than one Umpire report a Player for a single incident, only one Set Penalty Sheet needs to be submitted.
3. The Reported Player, the Offended Player/s or either Club involved in the incident, have the right to deny the Set Penalty offered by the Umpire/s and refer the matter to the Tribunal.
4. If a Set Penalty is offered this Sheet must be completed at the conclusion of the match, with the original Sheet included in the match the match day paper work that is sent to the League. The reporting Umpire/s must ensure a copy of the Set Penalty Sheet is provided to each Team Manager, as well as retaining a copy for themselves.
5. If the Reported Player, Offended Player/s or either Club involved in the incident do not sign this Sheet and include it in the matchday paperwork being sent to the League, they have up until 10am on the first business day following the game to request that the matter be referred to the Tribunal or alternatively accept the Set Penalty offered. (Such request must be made by the Club via email or phone call to the League Secretary or Competition Manager.)
6. If a Set Penalty Sheet is received with the official match paperwork and a party has failed to sign it or notify the League of their intentions to accept or deny the Set Penalty (as stated in point 5 above), it will be determined that such party is accepting of the Set Penalty offered.
7. If the reported Player of their Club does not accept the Set Penalty and elects to have it heard by the Tribunal, there is a strong likelihood if the charge is sustained that the Tribunal will impose a sanction that exceeds the Set Penalty offered, as the Set Penalty was offered under the premise of an early guilty pleas.

A Set Penalty has been offered for the following offence/s.

Law/Rule	Rule Details (extract from Set Penalty Guide)	Penalty Offered / Matches

Reported Player's Name Club No.....

I / We ACCEPT the Set Penalty offered ☐ I / We DO NOT ACCEPT the Set Penalty ☐

Signature of Player of Club Official

Offended Player's Name Club No

I / We ACCEPT the Set Penalty offered ☐ I / We DO NOT ACCEPT the Set Penalty ☐

Signature of Player of Club Official

Reporting Umpire Name Signature

Reporting Umpire Name Signature

