



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

The South Australian Women's Football League (SAWFL) is committed to ensuring a safe environment for all participants and supporters. Therefore it is essential that the League have a Code of Conduct policy. This Code of Conducts includes the behavior of clubs, players, parents, officials, spectators, coaches, child/youth protection and harassment. Any person deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct shall be reviewed and serious disciplinary action will be taken. Serious offences will be sent to external authority for investigation.

The League advises that:

- Excessive consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited at any venue while under age football is being conducted.
- Consumption of alcohol by minors is unacceptable and strictly prohibited.
- The resale of alcohol by any club not having a Liquor License to do so is unacceptable and illegal.
- The use of illicit drugs is strictly prohibited at any SAWFL matches.
- Players, spectators and officials should ensure that both on and off field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

Therefore:

- Swearing or abuse by either club official, player or spectator is not permissible at any time.
- Disputing umpire's decisions or behaving in an aggressive manner toward them is unacceptable. If there is genuine concern, there are appropriate channels of communication in place.
- Aggressive behaviour and abuse toward opposition players, coaches, club officials or spectators is likewise unacceptable.
- All accredited coaches should be assessed by clubs regarding their knowledge of the rules of SAWFL Football and their attitude toward working with young people. If their attitude or knowledge is inadequate, steps should be taken to enable them to attend the next available Coaches Accreditation Course for a further re-accreditation. Common sense should prevail if there is an attitudinal problem.

PHILOSOPHIES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT CODE OF CONDUCT

- All participants should understand that the rules of the game are mutual agreements which no-one should evade or break. All those involved in under age football should strive to develop a respect for the League in which they participate, their club and their opponents.
- We all have an obligation to behave in a manner that will bring credit to ourselves, our club and the game of Australian Rules football.
- Players should be proud when walking off the ground after each game, knowing they have given their best.
- For the game to be enjoyable, players must have the opportunity to participate, learn and achieve their potential. The role of adults is to provide the environment for this to occur.
- Selection of teams and amount of field time given to players in under age football should not be decided on current ability only.
- Coaches must take into account the age group and skill level of those they are coaching neither expecting too much or too little.
- It is inappropriate in under age football for a club with a large list of players in any one age group to neither loan nor make allowances for those clubs with smaller lists. Those teams with the greater number should play no more than one extra player on the field.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the official during a break or after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent and throwing equipment is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays whether they are by your team or the other team.
- Treat all players, as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
- At all times show respect and manners to every one concerned.

OFFICIALS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill of children/youth and their needs.
- Compliment both teams on their effort.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn the deliberate foul as being un-sportsmanlike and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- Use common sense to ensure that overcalling violations does not lose the 'spirit of the game' for children/youth.
- Publicly encourage rule changes, which will enforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behaviour is consistent with the principals of good sportsmanship.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principals and the principals of growth and development of children/youth.



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PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

- If children/youth are interested, encourage them to play sport. However, if a child/youth is not willing to play, do not force her.
- Focus upon the child/youth's effort and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child/youth in setting realistic goals related to her ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
- Teach children/youth that an honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage children/youth to always play according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child/youth for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children/youth learn best by example. Applaud good plays by both teams.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channel rather than question the official's judgment and honesty in public.
- Remember that most officials give their time and effort for your child/youth's involvement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children/youth and deserve your support.
- Always remember two points - Sportsmanship, and most importantly - let's all have fun.

SPECTATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Children/Youth play organised sport for fun. They are not there playing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performance and effort by your team and the opponents.
- Congratulate both teams upon their performance, regardless of the outcome.
- Respect the Official's decision. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach the children to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or scold a child/youth for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your teams opponents, without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to play according to the rules and the official's decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.

COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Abide by the Laws and Rules. The Laws of the Game and the Rules of the Club/League.
- Teach the Rules. Rules are mutual agreements, which nobody should break.
- Group players competitively.
- Avoid overplaying talented players.
- Maximise fun. Place winning in perspective.
- Stress safety always.
- Consider maturity levels. Devise training programs to suit all.
- Develop team respect. For opponents, umpires and coaches.
- Recognise the importance of proper injury treatment.
- Keep up to date with coaching developments.
- Attain coaching accreditation.
- Avoid derogatory language. Based on gender, race or sexuality

See separate form for Coaches Code of Conduct agreement.



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CHILD/YOUTH PROTECTION

The SAWFL is a female competition and involves women and girls from the age of 14 to over 40 years of age. It's the responsibility of all teams, clubs and members of the SAWFL to ensure players under the age of 18 are provided a safe and learning environment, if any member of the SAWFL feels that this is not occurring in a club environment please report it to your club officials or the SAWFL executive. We want to ensure all our players are continuing to enjoy their football in a fun, friendly and safe environment.

DEFINITION/LEGISLATION

- A child or youth is defined as someone under the age of 18 years.
- Child sexual maltreatment, a criminal offence, occurs when a child has been exposed to or subject to, sexual behaviors or acts which are exploitative and/or inappropriate to his or her developmental level.

CHILD PROTECTION CHECKLIST

There are a number of steps you need to take to create a safe environment for children and young people to enjoy Australian Football. Use this checklist to assist you club in providing the best possible care to all girls participating in female football.

YOUR TEAM/CLUB

- Establish a child protection policy
- Ensure all employees, officials and members are aware of you policies and procedures
- Identify child related employment positions (paid and unpaid)
- Establish record keeping procedures
- Report any relevant completed disciplinary proceedings against an official or member
- Nominate a child protection Officer
- Raise awareness amongst you competition staff and officials
- Keep records secure and treat information as highly sensitive
- Have all Officials and staff sign a code of conduct declaration and a working with children consent form
- Screen preferred applicants for working with children positions
- Conduct reference checks

If you have any questions or doubts about you policies or officials and staff contact the following organisations for help:

- SANFL Ph: 8268 2088
- Australian Sports Commission Ph: 02 9214 1111 www.ausport.gov.au
- Play By The Rules www.playbytherules.net.au
- Kids Helpline Ph: 1800 55 1800



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HARASSMENT

HARASSMENT FREE ENVIRONMENTS

SAWFL is committed to providing a Competition free of harassment, where individuals are treated with respect and dignity. The League will not tolerate harassing behaviour under any circumstances and will take disciplinary action against anyone who breaches the policy.

This information applies to all employees, directors, officers, officials, volunteers, coaches, athletes and members of the SAWFL competition and its affiliated clubs.

This policy applies to behaviour occurring both within and outside the course of the League's business, activities and events, when the behaviour involves individuals associated with the SAWFL Competition and its affiliated club's and negatively affects relationships within the organisations sport and work environment.

DEFINITIONS

Harassment consists of offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening behaviour directed at a person or people, because of a particular characteristic of that person or people (including the person or peoples level of empowerment relative to the harasser). The behaviour must be unwelcome and the sort of behaviour a reasonable person would recognise as unwelcome. Behaviour constituting harassment can take many different forms and may be explicit or implicit, physical, verbal, or non-verbal.

Examples include:

- Abusive behaviour aimed at intimidating someone in a less powerful position
- Jokes or comments directed at a persons body, looks, age, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability
- Unwelcome remarks including teasing and name-calling or insults
- Innuendo, suggestive remarks or taunting
- Homophobic comments and or behaviours
- Uninvited touching, kissing, embarrassing or massaging
- Staring, leering or ogling
- Smutty jokes and comments
- Persistent or intrusive questions about peoples private lives
- Repeated invitations to go out, especially after a prior refusal
- Sexual propositions
- The use of promises or threats to coerce someone into sexual activity
- The creation of a hostile or sexually permeated environment by constant inappropriate references to sexual matters, the display of sexually explicit material (posters, cartoons, graffiti) or by the use of offensive e-mails, faxes, letters or notes.
- Sexual insults, taunts or name-calling.

It is important that all coaches, managers, participants and officials involved in all female football competitions are continuously aware that they are dealing with female athletes in a sport extremely dominated by males. The Australian football experience for all females, regardless of age, needs to be made one of fun, friendships, health, learning and safety.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

All complaints should be reported to the SAWFL Executive in writing for further investigation, and if proven, serious disciplinary action will be taken. Serious offences will be sent to external authorities for investigation.

All Complaints should be sent to: SAWFL Executive PO Box 10461 Gouger Street Adelaide SA 5000