

Morningside AFC – Code of Behaviour



This Code of Behaviour aims to set out the minimum standards for anyone involved in the MORNINGSIDE AFC.

A key aspect of the club's culture is the promotion of the game of Australian Rules Football at all levels in which the club competes and at all club related activities.

Players, Coaches, Administrators, Members and Staff are to represent the Club, both on and off the field, in a manner which promotes the Club as a professional and sportsmanlike organisation. This applies within the club environment and at all other venues at which the club is participating. The Club's facilities are for family related activities.

It will apply when playing, training or taking part in club-sanctioned activities.

- Act within the rules and spirit of AFL.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the AFL.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- While the Club encourages member input and feedback it will not tolerate verbal, written or social media commentary that is inappropriate in terms of tone, audience or accusations. The club has appropriate club positions, forums and/or ultimately the Board to address members concerns in an impartial and socially acceptable manner, including independent investigation and confidentiality where appropriate.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Display appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs. The club's liquor licensing regulations and requirements are non-negotiable and all members must obey the instructions of staff at all times.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.
- The staff of the Club represent the Management of the Club and ultimately the Board. They shall be treated with respect and their directions shall be followed.

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Players

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Play by the rules and show respect for other players, coaches and officials.

Coaches

- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else.
- Help each person (player, official, etc.) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young and mature players alike.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.

Officials

- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else.
- Ensure all players are included and can participate, regardless of their race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Be consistent, impartial and objective when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for other players and officials.

Administrators

- Ensure quality supervision and instruction for players.
- Support coaches and officials to improve their skills and competencies.
- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct club responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.

Parents/Guardians

- Encourage your child to participate, do their best and enjoy AFL.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

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- Help out the coach or officials at training and games, where possible.
- Model appropriate behaviour, including respect for other players and officials.

Spectators

- Respect the effort and performances of players and officials.
- Reject the use of harassment, bullying or violence in any form, whether by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.

Zero Tolerance on Code of Conduct Breaches

THE MAFC Board will administer the above guidelines with zero tolerance. Where there has been a breach of the club code of conduct the matter shall be initially managed at the appropriate committee level (e.g. Senior, Junior or Operations Committee level). The relevant section Board member will be a party to all Breach reviews at the Committee level and subsequently report on the matter to the Board.

The Board reserves the right to review/conduct any investigation and action regarding a breach of the above code where the matter involves;

- Physical intimidation
- Bullying and/or harassment
- Discrimination
- Social media intimidation or abuse
- Or any matter that may result in the club suffering; legal, financial or reputational recrimination.

The Board reserves the right to suspend or in the case of a single serious breach or consistent behaviour breaches terminate the respective individual(s) club membership.