



Policy – Coaching

DRAFT

1 Document purpose

This document explains the Association's position with regard to coaching.

2 What this policy applies to

This policy applies to all competitions, clubs and team officials.

3 Policy

3.1 Coaching

Quality coaching that focuses primarily on player development, rather than winning the game, is the main influence on a player's development and enjoyment of Australian football.

3.2 Coaching accreditation

Given the significance of the role to the development of footballers:

- All team coaches must possess a current AFL Coaching Accreditation, or must be working towards achieving accreditation by June 30.
- The minimum level of coaching accreditation for all coaches is Level 1.
- Coaches of youth grades should be Level 2 accredited.
- Each team should have an assistant coach (or other team official) who is also accredited in the event that the regular coach is not available.

3.3 Coach registration

All coaches of all grades should be registered with the Association as a coach. Registration may involve a working with children declaration and a declaration that the coach will abide by the codes of conduct for coaches.

Registration is required each season so that the Association may check the credentials of coaches and to keep a record of contact details for information to coaches and for coaching development opportunities.

3.4 AFL Coaches Code of Conduct

AFL Accredited Coaches are required to commit to uphold the [AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct](#). This commitment should be reaffirmed each season on registration.

3.5 Coaching development

3.5.1 Higher levels of accreditation

Coaches of youth grades (Year 8+) are encouraged to achieve Level 2 coaching accreditation.

3.5.2 AFL, WAFC and Association policies

All coaches should endeavour to keep informed of the AFL, WAFC and Association policies for junior football, particularly as they relate to the coaching role. Examples are:

- This policy
- Player development (Association)
- Game day environment (Association)
- Equal opportunity policy (WAFC)
- Alcohol policy (WAFC)
- Smoke free environment policy (WAFC)
- Player rotation policy (WAFC)
- Member protection policy (WAFC)
- Pregnancy policy (WAFC)
- Racial vilification policy (WAFC)
- Prohibited persons declaration form (PPD) policy (WAFC)
- Working with children legislation policy (WAFC)
- Risk management policy (WAFC)
- Infectious diseases policy (WAFC, Department of Sport and Recreation)
- Protective equipment policy (WAFC)
- Spectacles policy (WAFC)
- Concussion policy (WAFC)
- Umpires handshake policy (WAFC)
- Codes of conduct (WAFC)
- Competition Bylaw 1, “The spirit of junior football”
- AFL Kids First

3.5.3 Competition Rules

All coaches should endeavour to keep informed of the Competition Rules. If a coach is unsure about the Competition Rules, they should seek clarification from the Umpires Development Coordinator.

As part of their coaching development, coaches are encouraged to achieve Level 1 AFL Umpiring accreditation.

3.5.4 Keeping informed

Coaches should endeavour to keep informed about good coaching practices and knowledge of the game, and utilize quality resources that are freely available. Examples are:

- AFL Community - www.aflcommunityclub.com.au
- WA Football Commission – www.wafootball.com.au
- Australian Sports Commission – www.ausport.gov.au

Coaches should be encouraged to seek other sources of information about coaching and to participate in coaching related information sessions as they become available.

3.6 Coaching Development Coordinator

The Association should appoint a Coaching Development Coordinator whose role should be to:

- liaise with clubs and coaches to determine coaching development needs and report to the Association;
- coordinate with the WAFC for the running of AFL Coaching Accreditation sessions and ensure clubs and coaches are made aware of the session dates and times;
- coordinate programmes for the development of coaches, apart from the AFL accreditation;
- coordinate information sessions for coaches on a variety of topics, inviting guest speakers from the WAFC, East Perth Football Club and other organisations;
- promote the AFL and WAFC Policies as they relate to junior football;
- promote the Competition Rules;
- liaise with the East Perth Football Club and arrange for local coaches to attend sessions with East Perth FC coaches as they train and address their players;
- establish and maintain a library of coaching development resources that is accessible by all coaches; and
- monitor coaching performances.

4 Why this policy is required

Player development is fundamental to junior football; and coaching has a major influence on player development.

This policy aims to improve the standard of coaching through accreditation of coaches and coaching development. The result should be better junior footballers that are getting the most from and enjoying the game.

5 Document record

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