

YERRINBOOL BARGO SOCCER CLUB JUNIOR SOCCER POLICY



Adapted from FFA, SNSW, HSA, Netball Australia Codes of Practice.

INTRODUCTION

This policy document and framework is designed to assist all YBSC administrators, coaches and volunteers in the development and provision of safe, healthy and fun environments in which young people can participate in soccer.

This policy applies to junior soccer covering participants aged between 4 – 18 years. YBSC recognises the importance of providing the opportunity for all young participants to engage in soccer in a way that brings them satisfaction, good health, fun, recognition and provides valuable learnings to those young participants.

It provides a framework and a direction to those with a duty of care to young soccer players. With a strong emphasis on safety, risk management and duty of care issues, it is vital that all YBSC administrators, coaches and volunteers carefully consider this policy and adopt the relevant sections.

Junior sport participation has many benefits including contributing to health and wellness by providing increased activity levels and reducing stress, and helping to build a positive self-image. It also offers a range of social benefits such as:

- developing life skills (e.g. communication, concentration, commitment);
- learning responsibility and discipline;
- learning how to work with others in team environments;
- learning to cope with success and failure;
- developing a sense of community, loyalty and cohesion;
- helping gifted young people become aware they are role models for others.

This policy has been adopted by the YBSC Management Committee to help:

- create safe and supportive environments for enjoyable participation to encourage lifelong involvement;
- provide an environment for the development of skills, cardiovascular and musculo-skeletal health;
- foster social benefits and encourage good sporting behaviour;
- provide equal opportunities for all young people to participate in soccer programs and competitions;
- encourage and actively cater for talented young sports people;
- develop a consistent and co-ordinated approach to all soccer programs in our association

Attracting Young People to Soccer & Keeping Them Involved

Junior soccer should be planned around the needs of young people to make it a positive and quality experience for them. Young people want:

- to keep good friends and make new ones;
- fun, excitement and enjoyment;
- to experience challenge, achievement and personal responsibility;
- to be personally satisfied;
- to use and improve their skills and to be healthy.

All young people should have the right to be involved and play soccer. YBSC makes decisions based on principles of equity so that individuals are not affected negatively by ability, body shape, disability, ethnicity, gender and sexuality, geographical location and socioeconomic status.

Ability: All members of our club are given the opportunity to reach their potential, regardless of their current level of ability. All junior players should be encouraged to do their best.

Disability: YBSC recognizes that young people with a disability enjoy being active and playing soccer. We will make every effort to accommodate young players with a disability.

Gender: YBSC welcomes the opportunity for girls and boys to play in a mixed team format. We recognize that young people want to play with their friends regardless of gender.

Age: YBSC abide by the HSA playing rules and as such:
In age competitions, players will play in the age group that they turn from 1st January to the 31st December of the competition year.
Players wishing to play Mini Roos in U/6's must turn 5 years of age by 31st December of the competition year.
Players may NOT play in a lower grade.
YBSC will at all times try to accommodate a family's need by regrading a player into a higher grade. This will only happen if the player abides by HSA rule 25 (D), also if it does not adversely affect another team i.e.: by playing up an age the players actual age group would be short of players.

<u>Team Numbers:</u>	Mini Roos under 6 & 7:	six players per team
	Mini Roos under 8 & 9:	ten players per team
	Mini Roos under 10 & 11:	twelve players per team
	Juniors under 12 to 15:	sixteen players per team
	Youth Grade under 16 to 18:	sixteen players per team

Team sizes are adhered to by the YBSC committee. If there are excess players for an age group or team the YBSC committee will endeavor to place these players into another age group or team. When filling teams the YBSC committee will take into consideration club loyalty, years of service and players that have registered and paid their fees first.

Soccer Pathways

Mini Roos – under 6 to under 11

Young people need to develop basic experiences and movement skills and be introduced to simple rules and fair play. Therefore, it is important that young people are able to “play” in an informal setting during their early development.

In this stage, young people should be able to:

- try out different positions on the field;
- gradually increase the time they spend in practice;
- experience fun, challenge and excitement through the way activities are organised.

YBSC have adopted the Mini Roos format of junior soccer and as such all teams from under 6 to under 11 plays under the Mini Roos guidelines. A copy of which is available through the committee. Team sizes are adhered to by the YBSC committee.

Junior – under 12 to under 15

From under 12 to under 15 all teams play on a full size field under HSA playing rules. Team sizes are adhered to by the YBSC committee – maximum of 16 players may be registered in any team. If more than 16 players register for an age group YBSC policy is – the first 16 players registered and paid will make up the team, YBSC will endeavor to place any “extra” players into another team if possible. This is the first time players are involved in a competition, with scores kept and a final series played at the end of the season.

Youth Grade – under 16 to under 18

From under 16 to under 18 all teams play on a full size field under HSA playing rules. Team sizes are adhered to by the YBSC committee – maximum of 16 players may be registered in any team. If more than 16 players register for an age group YBSC policy is – the first 16 players registered and paid will make up the team, YBSC will endeavor to place any “extra” players into another team if possible.

Coaching Clinics

HSA hold coaching clinics and development days throughout the year, YBSC encourages all players to take advantage of these clinics.

HSA representative teams – under 11 & 12 boys under 14 girls

The YBSC encourage all players who wish to play in a representative team to try out for the HSA representative team in their age group.

Highlands Football Club – under 12 to 1st grade

HFC is part of the HSA; however they play in the Illawarra 1st division competition. YBSC encourage all players who wish to play at a higher level to attend HFC trials. All players from each club within the HSA are eligible to trial for HFC; however players & parents must be aware that players are picked on their ability.

Codes of Conduct & Responsibilities

YBSC and its members should base their involvement in soccer by following the established codes of conduct & responsibilities produced by FFA, SNSW, HSA & YBSC including but not limited to the following:

- Players Code of Conduct
- Spectators Code of Conduct
- FFA Member Protection Policy
- YBSC Coaches & Managers Responsibilities
- YBSC Coaches Ethics
- No smoking Policy

A copy of some of these policies, are attached to this document and further copies are available on the YBSC web site or by contacting a member of the committee.

Coaches Considerations for Junior Players

- Compared to adults, young players are more susceptible to heat loss and heat gain. On days of extreme weather conditions consideration should be given to shortening or even cancelling training.
- Young players do not instinctively drink enough to replace fluid lost during play. They should be reminded to drink before, during and after training and games.
- Young players need to be reminded to apply sunscreen and wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.
- Coaches play an important role in preventing injury and illness. Coaches need to encourage young players to concentrate on correct technique when exercising to prevent injury and also for players to take adequate time off to recover from injury. Coaches also need to encourage players to avoid spreading germs by: not sharing drink bottles, removing or cleaning blood stained clothing and encouraging players to stay away from training when sick.
- Coaches need to be aware if a player has any specific medical needs and develop a system with the child's parents for any emergencies.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Players Code of Conduct – Short Version

(This code is available in expanded form – Code of Conduct Full Version)

1. Play by the rules and understand the spirit of the game.
2. Play to win and never set out to lose.
3. Play fair to earn respect and to detest cheats.
4. Refrain from sexual harassment towards fellow players, coaches and officials.
5. Never argue with an official, captain, coach or manager who is there to maintain discipline and fair play.
6. Control your temper and avoid verbal abuse, sledging or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent,
7. Be honest with the coach concerning illness and injury.
8. Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team.
9. Be a good sport and applaud all good plays.
10. Accept defeat with dignity and don't seek excuses for defeat or blame the referee or anyone else.
11. Promote the interests of football and encourage other people to watch it or play it fairly.
12. Treat all participants equally, and reject corruption, drugs, racism, violence and other dangers to our sport.
13. Help others to resist corrupting pressures and remind them of their commitment to their team and the game.
14. Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents.
15. Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
16. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, coaches and officials.
17. Denounce those who attempt to discredit our sport.
18. Honour those who defend football's good reputation with honesty and fairness and encourage others to act in the same way.

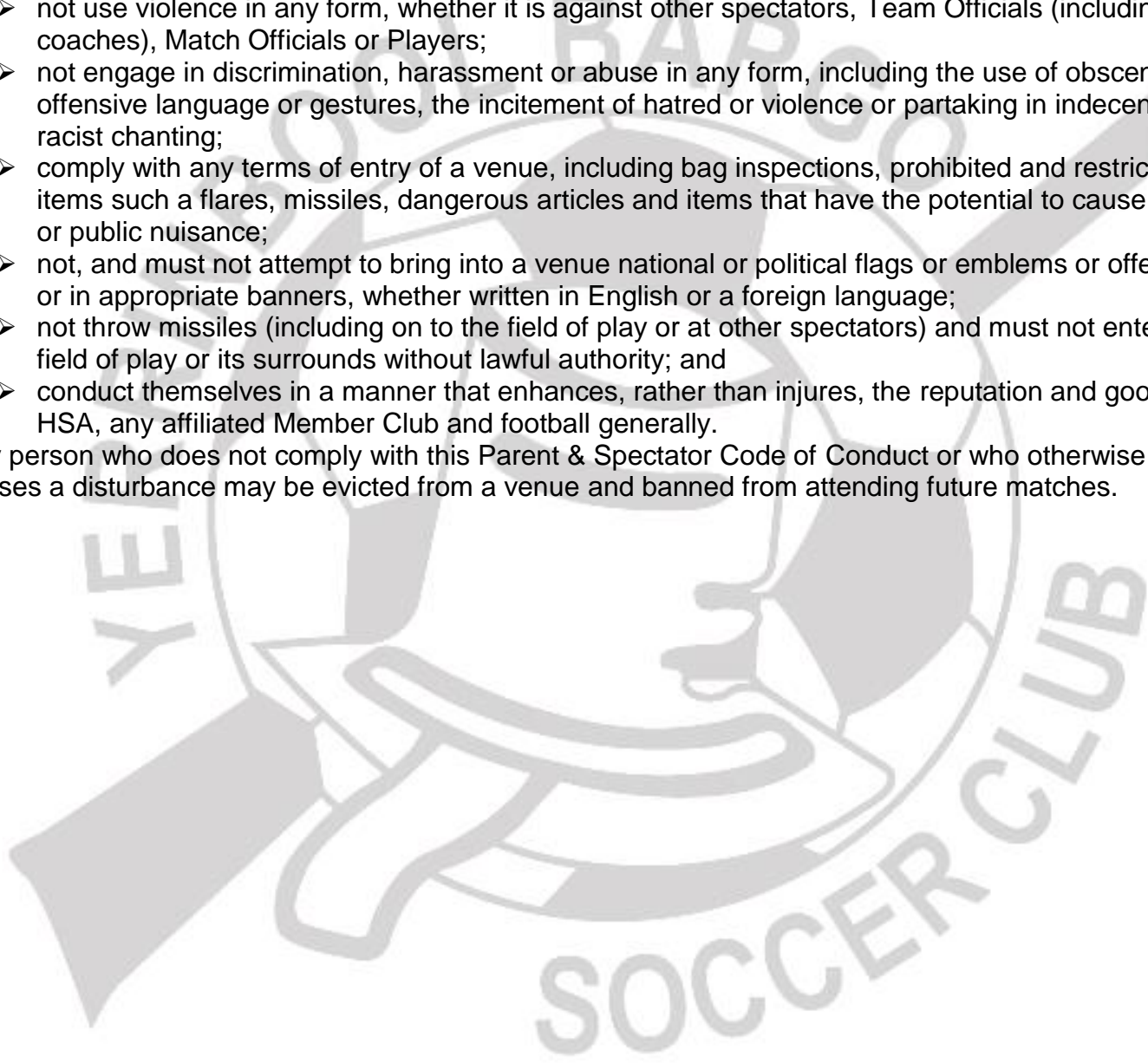
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PARENT & SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

A parent and/or spectator at a match or otherwise involved in any activity sanctioned by, or staged by, or held under the auspices of, Highland Soccer Association (HSA), or an affiliated Member Club must:

- respect the decisions of Match Officials and teach children to do the same;
- never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake;
- respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin;
- not use violence in any form, whether it is against other spectators, Team Officials (including coaches), Match Officials or Players;
- not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form, including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;
- comply with any terms of entry of a venue, including bag inspections, prohibited and restricted items such as flares, missiles, dangerous articles and items that have the potential to cause injury or public nuisance;
- not, and must not attempt to bring into a venue national or political flags or emblems or offensive or in appropriate banners, whether written in English or a foreign language;
- not throw missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators) and must not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and
- conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of HSA, any affiliated Member Club and football generally.

Any person who does not comply with this Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct or who otherwise causes a disturbance may be evicted from a venue and banned from attending future matches.



YBSC Coaches Ethics

Our definition of success: We know we are succeeding if the children turn up to play again next year.

To achieve our definition of success the Yerrinbool Bargo Soccer Club values and goals are as follows:

- To provide a positive environment in which children can develop their soccer skills;
- To ensure children of all abilities receive a fair go;
- To ensure the children develop a love for the game of soccer, have fun and enjoy themselves;
- To develop the social skills of the children;
- To develop the skills of our coaches on a continual basis.

We also recognise that we have an obligation to instil in our players:

- The need to respect the coach, the club and each other;
- The understanding that not everyone has the same level of ability;
- To always try their best;
- To respect the referee and the laws of the game;
- To respect the opposition and be both a gracious winner and a gracious loser.

The role of our coaches is to impart the above values and goals to the children. Their success (and your own), will be defined by the number of players who turn up to play again next year and not by the number of premierships won.

The role of the club officials is to support the coaches in developing and implementing the above values and goals, and to help parents achieve the values set out above.

COACHES & MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Firstly on behalf of the committee, the parents & all the players I would like to say thank you for putting your hand up to either coach or manage this year.

Being coach or manager carries a number of responsibilities not only to the team but to the club. So to ensure that the season runs smoothly for all involved, please make yourself familiar with the following points.

- The aim of a junior coach is to attempt to improve the skills of both the individuals and the team, but most of all to provide a fun & exciting environment that will encourage the kids to return again next year.
- ALL coaches and managers must fill in a "Working with Children Declaration Form".

Training:

- YBSC training ground is Bargo Sportsground
- Training is to be organised on a day & time that suits you. Do not try to fit in with player or parent schedules. Each coach / manager MUST notify the club secretary of days and times you intend to train!
- Please ensure that parents are aware of exactly what time training starts & finishes. Try to ensure that you keep to this time as well. **You must ensure that no child is left at the field unattended before you leave.**
- It is the coach/managers responsibility to inspect the area they are training in for any hazards. YBSC have adopted the Soccer NSW Ground Inspection Checklist, ALL coaches are to fill out this form prior to training every week! If a hazard is found please remove it if it is safe to do so. If you consider it to be unsafe do not train in this area and report the hazard ASAP to the facilities coordinator. These forms must be given to YBSC facilities coordinator monthly. They can be delivered personally or posted to PO Box 140 Bargo NSW 2574.
- You will be issued with a training kit at the start of the season. Coaches / managers are responsible for all equipment including – training balls, cones, pumps, bibs and first aid kits.
- If any equipment is lost or damaged, please contact the equipment officer to arrange for replacement. You are not to purchase any equipment without first contacting the equipment officer.
- First Aid Kits must be taken to all training sessions and games!
- Please use commonsense and courtesy when selecting a training area, this facility is shared with AFL and we need to exist in harmony. If you have a problem come to the committee to have it sorted out.
- If you require lights to train contact the facilities coordinator.
- ALL players MUST wear shin pads at training!
- Under NO circumstances will any team be allowed to train when the grounds are closed due to wet weather.
- If a player is injured during training, notify the YBSC committee so an incident report can be completed.

Game Day:

- Players in U/6's to U/11's are to receive an equal amount of game time, regardless of skill level.
- Players from U/12's to U/18's are playing for premiership points and while you are strongly encouraged to give all players equal time, it is at the coaches discretion as to how the team is structured. However this does not mean that players are to be left on the bench receiving little or no game time. You should discuss this with the team and the parents before the start of the season to make your intentions clear.
- You will be issued a kit containing a set of playing shirts and a game ball. It is your responsibility to hold and maintain the playing shirts for the season and delegate the washing and return of the playing shirts prior to each game.
- ALL shirts must be collected at the end of each game and washed. Players must not wear their playing shirt home! All shirts MUST be kept together in the kit bag supplied.
- Ensure all players / parents are aware of the expected time to arrive prior to kick off.
- At home games, if your team is the first team scheduled to play either Mini Roos or on the full field, it is your responsibility to get to the ground early enough to set the field up ready to play. If you are the last team scheduled you are responsible for packing up the equipment. It takes about 30 – 40 minutes to set up nets, corner flags & benches and about 15 minutes to set up for Mini Roos.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that the team sheet is filled in correctly prior to the start of a game & for signing it off at the end of the game. At home games a copy of the team sheet MUST be handed in to the canteen. At away games you must collect a copy of the team sheet from the other team's manager.
- Strictly only coaches, managers and players are permitted in the technical area during matches. Please ensure all spectators, parents and non playing children stay behind the fence.
- At home games, organise two parents to volunteer in the canteen for 30min prior to your kick off. The canteen provides essential funds for running your club.
- At home games, organise one parent to act as ground official. The ground official must wear the supplied vest and be over the age of 18. The ground official is to ensure that the Codes of Conduct are adhered to while your match is in progress.
- At all grounds, maintain the cleanliness of change rooms and team areas. When you leave please pick up all tape, drink bottles and ensure rubbish is placed into bins.
- If you have a player injured during a match, please ensure you fill out an incident report before you leave the ground. Injury books should be kept at all grounds in the canteen. Notify the YBSC committee.

Wet Weather:

- The facilities coordinator will endeavour to notify all coaches / managers of ground closures by SMS and e-mail.
- The club secretary will update the club web site www.ybsc.com and facebook page with wet weather information as soon as possible.
- Wollondilly Council have wet weather information line. These are recorded messages and are updated regularly.
- Wollondilly: 4677 1111 (Bargo Sportsground)
- Wingecarribee: Yerrinbool Oval check www.wsc.nsw.gov.au (right hand side of web page – Sport Field Status).
- It is your responsibility to check the wet weather sign at the entrance to Bargo Sportsground. This sign will indicate if the ground is open or closed.

Communication:

- All communication to teams will be via SMS and e-mail. Please ensure that the club secretary has an up to date mobile number and e-mail address for both coach and manager.
- Check web site and facebook page regularly. www.ybsc.com
- It is your responsibility to pass on all information to the players / parents in your team. Please ensure you have all relevant contact details.
- If you have any concerns please contact our committee immediately.

Codes of Conduct:

- All coaches and managers are bound by YBSC, HSA, FNSW and FIFA's Code of Conduct and policies.
- As you may have heard, there are less people venturing into the field of refereeing in all sports due to the increasing tendency towards verbal & physical abuse from players, officials & spectators. Please ensure that you talk to every player in regards to the referee's role in the game and that you also reflect this in your own behaviour on the sidelines. The Highlands Soccer Association has a zero tolerance for abuse of referee's and the YBSC committee supports this stance.

Yours in Soccer

YBSC Committee

