

IMPERIALS FOOTBALL CLUB (AFL Victoria Regulation 5.1.4 (b))

MANDATORY & ENFORCABLE CODES OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS, SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIALS

The Imperials Football Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL and AFL Victoria.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches are required to sign the AFL Code of Conduct as part of the Level 1 Accreditation requirement. All coaches must be accredited to coach in our League.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play by the rules – the rules of your club and the laws of the game.
- Never argue with an umpire or other official – without these people, you can't play football.
- Control your temper – verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games.
- Be a team player – It's a team game, treat it that way.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated – fairly.
- Co-operate with your coaches, the umpires and team mates.
- Play for your own enjoyment and to improve your skills.
- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your coach, teammates and family if you do – and many such comments are now illegal.

PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses – supporters are there to support not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time.
- Never publicly criticise umpires – raise concerns with club officials in private.
- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your family and yourself if you do – and many such comments are now illegal.
- Respect player privacy in the change rooms and leave immediately after award presentations.

SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Social media can be fun, helpful and dangerous.

Comments, notes and photos used on Social Media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and on-line forums are usually constructive and positive. But negative comments and images, bullying, criticism and sexist remarks can be dangerous and harmful to people's well-being and reputation and the image of the sport.

2. **Do not use social media to be critical of teammates, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers or spectators.**

Any comment you make on social media sites has the potential to be seen by millions of people. That is great if comments are positive. But it can be extremely negative and harmful if critical of people. Before you post a comment on social media ask yourself this: Would I want millions of people to read something negative about me?

3. **Always assume the person you are talking/writing about will see what has been said/written.**

Just because an online chat is between two people does not mean it remains private and nobody else can see it. Social media is accessible to everyone. Even if the person you are discussing does not see it, somebody else may. The result is **you** rather than the person you are ridiculing will be seen in a negative light.

4. **Use social media as a positive outlet to promote players, teammates, teams, clubs and others involved in Junior Football.**

Posting results and acknowledging individual and team performances on social media makes many people aware of team and individual achievements. That can have a positive effect for many people and should be used, encouraged and embraced wherever and whenever possible.

5. **Remember to show respect.**

When using social media show the same respect and regard for people that you would show and are expected to show when playing, officiating or attending a football game.

6. **When in doubt, leave it out.**

If you are unsure if what you are posting on social media is appropriate then it is best not to post it. When in doubt leave it out.

7. **Do not tolerate or condone poor social media behaviour or actions.**

If you are aware of or observe poor social media behaviour or actions, do not accept it. There is no place for it in Junior Football and it will not be condoned. You should remind people of their responsibilities when using social media and warn that actions can be taken against them. In the instance of minors breaching of the code of conduct, alert their parents to the situation. If you believe the breach is serious, report it to team, club or league officials.

8. **Be aware that your actions on social media may have serious consequences.**

Negative comments and images, bullying, criticism and sexist remarks do not only impact negatively on the people they are about. If you are found to have acted improperly on social media regarding a junior football related matter, you are liable to disciplinary proceedings. A suspension for Junior Football could be imposed.

9. **Imperials Football Club does not condone or endorse a Facebook page bearing the name or any abbreviations of the club's name.**

This will be monitored and any such sites found will be asked to be removed immediately. The clubs website is the only accepted form of electronic communication/advertising/promotion.