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## AWJFL Coaches/Support Staff Code of Conduct

- Support all efforts to promote a positive and supportive sports environment and remove verbal, racist and physical abuse from junior football.
- Respect the rights of all players and treat them all equally and sensitively, regardless of their talent, gender, ethnic origin, physical capacity or cultural background.
- Seek to maximise the participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability; avoid the tendency to over-use a talented player.
- Teach players to play by the rules of junior football and to follow fair play and ethical guidelines.
- Teach players that an honest effort and competing to the best of their ability is as important as victory.
- Maintain a thorough knowledge of the rules of the game and keep abreast of current coaching methods; Coaches are to maintain or improve their current accreditation level.
- Promote the safety, well-being and protection of all players, ensuring that no training and playing demands are detrimental to the social, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of the individual.
- Encourage independence of the individual players in accepting responsibility for their own behaviour and performance within training and competition.
- Remember, young people are involved in junior football for their own enjoyment and development, not yours.
- Ensure the coaching reflects the level of the competition being played; do not be a “win at all costs” coach.
- Never ridicule, shout at or abuse any player for making a mistake. Remember, mistakes are part of the learning process.
- Never abuse, verbally or physically, players, match officials or spectators in any way, shape or form. The Albury Wodonga Junior Football League and its affiliate clubs have adopted a zero-tolerance policy concerning this. Avoid confrontation, walk away and report breaches of this code to a club representative.
- Remember that young people learn best by example.
- Recognise the value of volunteer coaches, umpires and officials. Conduct yourself at all times in a manner in all situations, that shows leadership, respect for the game of Australian Football and respect for all those involved in the game – players, officials, parents and supporters.
- Never manipulate rules and regulations solely for personal gain or to obtain an unfair advantage for your club.
- Follow the advice of a qualified person when determining when an injured player is ready to play or train again.
- Your club’s child safety policy – ensure you are aware of your mandated responsibility to report suspicion of child abuse and neglect. Complete the online training on [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au).
- Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate – is it necessary for the player’s skill development?

- Avoid developing any ‘special’ relationships with children – ensure that you show no favouritism such as the offering of gifts or special treatment. This includes intimate relationships and personal online social networking with team members.
- Please use social media responsibly. Coaches and Support Staff will not post inappropriate comments about the League or its members. Breaches of this policy may be investigated by the league and serious incidents referred to Police. The AWJFL Cyber Safety & Social Media Policy provides information about the leagues expectations in relation to acceptable and proper use of social media.
- **NOTE: The Coach’s and Support Staff behaviour at training and at every junior football league match must be above reproach and be a positive example to all others. All Coaches/Support Staff have an added responsibility towards maintaining an acceptable level of conduct and behaviour by the players, Leagues and the parents/spectators associated with their team. Coaches are to make this position clear to all the players, team officials and parents/primary care providers of the players within their team, and seek the commitment of all involved in maintaining a positive and supportive atmosphere at all games.**

## **Coaching Practices**

AWJFL has adopted the following Coaching Practices Policy to assist in the development of players. AWJFL Coaches are required to implement the policy in their coaching practices. AWJFL takes very seriously breaches to its coaching practices and philosophies and will impose the appropriate disciplinary actions.

### **‘Taggers’/‘Run Withs’**

‘Taggers’ whose sole aim is to stop the opposition player from gaining possessions are not to be used in the AWJFL.

It is acceptable however that ‘run withs’, who seek to gain possessions themselves whilst maintaining close checking of their opponent, are used. The same players are not to be used as ‘run-withs’ each match.

### **Positional Rotations of Players**

Coaches are required to give players the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency at playing in a variety of positions and players should be used in a number of roles throughout the season.

### **Extra Player in Defence**

‘Flooding’ the opposition’s forward line or midfield (i.e. the practice of moving multiple players to fill space in the opposition’s forward half) is not to be used in the AWJFL. It makes it very difficult for forwards to develop, does not encourage accountability for mid fielders, and reduces the skill development of back line players.

For AWJFL purposes ‘Crowding’ is defined as having two or more additional players positioned permanently on the defensive side of the ball in the opposition’s forward fifty-metre area.

‘Flooding’ is the proactive practice of moving multiple forward line players into the opposition’s defensive half of the ground with the aim of restricting space and retarding the fluent delivery of the football to the forwards.

At centre square bounces, teams are only to have 6 players in the defensive half.

Crowding and Flooding as defined above are not permitted in the AWJFL as it is contrary to the development philosophy of the competition. Crowding and Flooding do not assist the development of the:

- Midfielders for the attacking team who can gain many uncontested possessions and who will have many uncontested disposals;
- Defenders of the defending team who are receiving support from additional team members;
- Attacking team’s forwards who are being crowded by additional defenders and not therefore able to develop their skills as effectively as otherwise possible.
- ‘Crowders’ or ‘flooders’ and their accountability for an opponent.

### Coaching & Support Staff Match Day Behaviour

Coaches, team officials and players are role models within the competition and swearing or over the top aggressive, intimidating actions will not be tolerated in the AWJFL.

Coaches and team officials are to be controlled in the coaches' box due to the audibility of their coaching with the small crowds that are in attendance at AWJFL matches and players shouldn't be coached in a way that results in them swearing, being excessively aggressive etc, before or during play.

Team officials shall consist of a coach plus four (4) other persons, making a total of 5. Only those acting as team officials are permitted inside the oval boundary fences during play. All personnel, including players on the bench, must remain at least two (2) metres clear of the boundary line.

Runners must leave the playing field immediately after delivering a message. They may not coach, barrack or in any way deliberately obstruct play or interfere with a player or official from the opposing team.

### Coaching & Support Staff Agreement

As a coach or member of my club's support staff being affiliated with the Albury Wodonga Junior Football League, I agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct, Practices and Behaviour including all rules set down by the AWJFL and AFL Victoria Country.

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM: \_\_\_\_\_ SEASON: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLE	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
COACH			
ASSISTANT COACH			
TEAM MANAGER			
RUNNER			

### AWJFL Code of Conduct – Summary of Offences

***Please be advised whether you are a spectator, player, coach, manager, umpire or official that when you enter any Junior League grounds you are bound by the Albury Wodonga JFL Codes of Conduct which do not tolerate any type of unsportsmanlike behaviour from anyone involved in junior sport.***

Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials and club supporters. Breaches of the Albury Wodonga Junior Football League Code of Conduct may result in penalties, including but not limited to:

- requesting a person to change their behaviour;
- issuing a formal or informal warning;
- asking a person to leave a facility;
- Termination of a match, including potential forfeiture of competition points for offending team/club;
- banning a person from entering a facility and/or attending future matches;
- Suspension of a player, team, official or club from the competition on a temporary or permanent basis;

These penalties are in addition to any penalty which may be imposed by the League's judiciary.

In rare and serious cases, where a breach of the code constitutes unlawful behaviour, it may be necessary to involve the police.