

North Pilbara Football League (Inc)

Code of Behaviour

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Overview

All people involved in Australian Rules have a right to participate in a safe healthy and supportive environment. As Administrators, Officials, Players, Coaches and Spectators, we all have a responsibility and role to play in creating and maintaining this environment.

Our great game has always faced challenges but never more than those facing us today. There is no doubt that the biggest challenge is that of attracting people to participate in all aspects of the game such as young children to take up the sport, umpires, spectators and volunteers to act as officials, coaches, trainers, canteen assistants and so on. The recently released A.F.L. report clearly recognises this as our major task for the future.

It is therefore crucial that we all play our part in creating this safe, healthy, supportive and family friendly environment, which will attract people to participate in the various aspects of the game, mentioned above.

To that end, the North Pilbara Football League in consultation with its member clubs, has adopted the Western Australian Amateur Football League, "Code of Behaviour".

The Code sets standards of conduct and behaviour for all participants and also reflects how we would all like to be treated by others; that is, fairly, equally and with respect and dignity.

Your endorsement and adoption of the Code is critical to the future health and success of this League and the NPFL earnestly seeks your support.

Administrators

- Involve club personnel in planning, leadership and decision making related to the League.

- Give all people equal opportunities to participate.
- Create opportunities for people to participate in all facets of the game (players, coaches, club officials, umpires etc).
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Set the example by providing Code of Behaviour sheets to all participants and encourage clubs to follow the expectations.
- Ensure appropriate rules and regulations are implemented that emphasise fair play and encourage enjoyment and sportsmanship.
- Treat all clubs as equals not on their levels or grades.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Administer discipline in a just and fair but in a positive and supportive manner.
- Role model appropriate behaviour by demonstrating integrity, equity and fairness.
- Respect the rights, dignity and wish of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Officials

- Compliment and encourage all participants in an objective and courteous manner.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote fair play and respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than concentrate on negatives.
- As Officials, set the example by role modelling behaviour, which is positive and supportive and demonstrates integrity and fairness.
- Remember, as officials, you set the example. Your behaviour should be positive and supportive. You are a role model.
- Be responsible for the conduct of your players, spectators and officials.
- Accept responsibility for the safety and welfare of players, umpires and officials above all else.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Give all people a "fair go" regardless of their gender, ability, rural background or religion.

Players

- Play by and adhere to the rules.
- Value safety, fair play and welfare above personal prestige and gain.
- Accept the authority of all umpires and game officials.

- Never argue with umpires. If you disagree, have your captain, approach the umpire during a break or after the match.
- Never use foul language.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of umpires and other players, deliberately distracting or picking on opponents are not acceptable or permitted behaviour in any sport.
- Do not question the actions of an umpire. He will not change his decision!
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good play, whether by teammates or opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport, as you would like to be treated.
- Always co-operate with your coach and teammates and also with your opposition, as without them there would be no competition.
- Always participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents, other persons or coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Coaches

- Role model appropriate behaviour by acting with integrity and professionalism. Remember that the coach is likely to have the greatest influence on the behaviour of players and spectators.
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or not winning.
- Control your temper, do not sledge.
- Accept the umpire's decision and get on with the game.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience.
- Be reasonable in your demands on your player's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game, teaching your players to do the same.
- All players deserve equal attention and opportunity. Avoid over playing the talented players, the just average need and desire equal time. Remember that, people usually participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun. Treat each person as an individual
- Be responsible for decisions and the consequence of actions having utmost regard for high standards.
- Ensure that all equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, parents, friends and supporters. Encourage your players to do the same.

- Do not tolerate behaviour that may incite players and spectators against any on field official or public display of displeasure.
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players. Follow the advice of physicians or trainers when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or playing.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up with the latest coaching practices and rules of the sport.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Spectators

- Appreciate that people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not necessarily yours.
- Respect the decision of officials/umpires and encourage players to do so.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and the team. Congratulate all players on their performance regardless of the outcome.
- Never ridicule players for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without whom there would be no game.
- Encourage all players to follow the rules and official's decisions.
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.

Umpires

- Compliment and encourage all players.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making your decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors.
- Encourage and promote rule changes, which will make participation more enjoyable.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up with any rule changes that may occur.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else.
- Set the example by your behaviour and ensure that comments are positive and supportive.
- Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
- Give all players a "fair go" regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.