

Geelong & District Football and Netball League (GDFNL)

Code of Conduct – Coaches, Players, Officials, Umpires & Spectators

1. Purpose

The Geelong & District Football and Netball League (GDFNL) Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected of all participants involved in League activities.

The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe, respectful, inclusive and fair environment for all participants, including children and young people.

This Code applies to all GDFNL sanctioned activities including matches, training sessions, meetings, events, travel and online interactions.

2. General Principles

All participants must:

- Act with integrity, honesty and fairness
 - Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals
 - Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
 - Comply with League rules, policies and procedures
 - Promote inclusion and prevent discrimination
 - Behave in a manner that reflects positively on the League
-

3. Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches must:

- Promote participation, skill development and enjoyment
- Provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment
- Place player welfare above winning
- Treat all players fairly and without discrimination
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries
- Communicate respectfully with players, parents, officials and other coaches
- Respect the decisions of umpires and officials

- Refrain from abusive, intimidating or offensive behaviour
 - Hold and maintain required qualifications and a valid Working With Children Check where applicable
 - Comply with the GDFNL Child Safety Policy
-

4. Players Code of Conduct (Senior & Junior)

Players must:

- Play by the rules and spirit of the game
- Respect teammates, opponents, coaches and officials
- Accept umpire decisions without dispute
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times
- Avoid abusive, discriminatory or aggressive behaviour
- Refrain from bullying, harassment or intimidation
- Represent their club and the League positively
- Respect facilities, equipment and venues

Junior Players must additionally:

- Follow instructions from coaches and officials
 - Speak to a trusted adult if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable
-

5. Officials & Volunteers Code of Conduct

Officials and volunteers must:

- Perform their duties impartially and responsibly
 - Act honestly and transparently
 - Treat all participants with respect
 - Maintain confidentiality where required
 - Avoid conflicts of interest
 - Ensure required screenings (including Working With Children Checks where relevant) are current
 - Support and uphold League policies and procedures
-

6. Umpires Code of Conduct

Umpires must:

- Apply rules fairly, consistently and without bias
- Manage matches professionally and calmly

- Communicate decisions clearly and respectfully
 - Avoid engaging in unnecessary disputes
 - Maintain composure under pressure
 - Participate in professional development where required
 - Uphold the integrity of the game
-

7. Spectators & Supporters Code of Conduct

Spectators and supporters must:

- Respect players, coaches, officials and volunteers
 - Encourage positive participation and effort
 - Applaud good play from all teams
 - Refrain from abusive, threatening or discriminatory behaviour
 - Avoid interfering with match proceedings
 - Model respectful behaviour, particularly at junior matches
-

8. Social Media & Electronic Communication

All participants must:

- Communicate respectfully online
 - Avoid posting offensive, discriminatory or defamatory content
 - Not engage in cyberbullying or harassment
 - Protect the privacy and wellbeing of children
 - Represent the League and clubs appropriately on digital platforms
-

9. Unacceptable Conduct

The following behaviour is not permitted:

- Harassment, bullying or intimidation
 - Discrimination of any kind
 - Verbal or physical abuse
 - Threatening behaviour
 - Violence
 - Vilification
 - Breaches of child safety obligations
 - Any conduct that brings the League into disrepute
-

10. Reporting & Disciplinary Action

- Alleged breaches of this Code must be reported through the League's complaint procedures.
 - Reports will be handled fairly, confidentially and in accordance with GDFNL policies.
 - Disciplinary action may include warnings, suspension, removal from position, fines or referral to external authorities where appropriate.
-

11. Compliance

Participation in GDFNL competitions constitutes agreement to abide by this Code of Conduct.

Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

12. Review

This Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually or as required to reflect legislative or governance changes.