



2024 CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

Australian Rules Football is an incredible game that brings people together through shared experiences and a sense of belonging.

No person associated with the League shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person (the person vilified) on any basis, including but not limited to a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, special ability/disability or sexual orientation, preference or identity.

The AFL Masters Vic Metro Superules League is a place where everyone can feel safe and included.

In the spirit of "**Football for Fun**", an important principle that underpins AFL Masters, we reiterate the following standards that we expect of each other:

Umpires

- A key challenge facing our game at all the levels of AFL football is attracting and retaining umpires.
- Like players, umpires do not get every decision correct and make mistakes.
- We have a collective responsibility to ensure all umpires are respected for the integral role they perform.
- Inappropriate behaviour of any kind towards an umpire is not to be tolerated.

Coaches

- Coaches are required to sign the attached AFL Code of Conduct as part of the Foundation Level Accreditation process.
- Develop team respect for opponents and officials from both teams.

Supporters

- Remind supporters that you are there for the participants and to enjoy the game.
- Encourage supporters to behave appropriately and refrain from using offensive, discriminatory or degrading language.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and other spectators – physical or verbal abuse should not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time.
- Never publicly criticise umpires – raise personal concerns with club officials in private.
- Do not use ugly remarks based on race, religion, cultural background, gender, sexuality, appearance, disability or football ability (noting many such comments are now illegal).

Players

- Play by the rules – the rules of your club and the of the League.
- Never argue with an umpire or other official – without these people, we can't play football.
- Do not vilify other opponents.
- Treat all players the way you would like to be treated yourself.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all players, coaches and officials.
- Accept defeat with dignity – don't seek excuses or blame the umpire or anyone else.
- Play in the spirit of AFL Masters "Football for Fun".