

West Coburg Football Club

Code of Conduct



The West Coburg Football Club is a community club built the core values of gender and cultural diversity, teamwork and respect and responsibility to all. We believe and follow the principles of good play, leadership, fairness, and providing a family-friendly and comfortable environment on- and off- the field.

A community- and family-friendly brand is essential to our Club's future, and the Committee is dedicated to correcting any negative perceptions that may have plagued us in the past. This Code of Conduct builds atop that enforced by the EDFL and represents what it means to be **Proud to Be West Coburg**. It is mandatory and enforceable for anyone wearing or supporting the red, white and black – on or off the ground, face-to-face, in social media or any other medium.

For Parents & Supporters

- Remember that children play football for fun – they are not playing for spectator entertainment, nor are they miniature professionals. Involvement is for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Be mindful of their conduct during matches and set a positive example for players and spectators.
- Encourage children to participate whatever their ability and not force them.
- Teach that honest endeavour, not winning, is the victory.
- Promote respect for opponents and condemn unsporting behaviour.
- Encourage children to always play by the rules and to accept the umpire's decision without question.
- Recognise good play and skill where it is due, regardless of the side displaying it.
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for mistakes or losses.
- Respect official's decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Support club officials to foster high standards of behaviour for the club.
- Racial or physical abuse of players, coaches, officials and other supporters is illegal.
- Swearing, sledging, acts of verbal abuse and intimidating behaviour are not acceptable.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all players and their families regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteers coaches, officials and administrators.
- Contribute at all times to a family-friendly spectator environment.
- While exclamations of expected umpiring decisions is tolerated, supporters are not to directly address in a negative or critical manner or ridicule umpires, officials or players from the opposition.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public. Raise any concerns privately.

For Players

- Play by the laws and rules.
- Be a team player. Player for the benefit of the team as well as yourself.
- Never argue with an umpire or officials. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach.
- Control your temper. Abuse of officials or other players is unacceptable behaviour.
- Be a good sport and display sportsman-like conduct. Don't forget to acknowledge opponents, officials and umpires (eg. shake hands before and after the game). Be gracious in victory, humble in defeat.
- Treat all players fairly, as you would like to be treated.
- Swearing, sledging, acts of verbal abuse and intimidating behaviour are not acceptable.
- Cooperate and support your coach. Encourage your teammates.
- Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Aim to improve.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all players and their families regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the property of the Club and other players.
- These guidelines apply to how we expect you to behave towards your teammates and other players before, during and after game day or training, whether at the ground, at school, at other sporting venues or online.

Breaches

Violations of the Code of Conduct can put the Club at financial risk with the EDFL. Breaches will be dealt with swiftly in accordance with the Club's Rules of Association and under the principles of natural justice. Individuals believed to be in breach will receive a maximum of one formal warning per season. Continued breaches will result in being called in front of the Committee to explain the infractions, with punitive action from the Club potentially including family suspension, and if sustained, expulsion. Violence and racial vilification are both considered criminal offences and instances will be dealt with accordingly.

Player violations of the Code of Conduct and rules of the game are covered under the disciplinary provisions of the West Coburg Football Club constitution and the laws of the Essendon District Football League.