



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VAF A PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

The VAF A aims to educate and promote respectful player behaviour and identify unacceptable behaviour, ensuring the match day experience is protected for all participants. This code of conduct has been developed to give participants an understanding of their responsibilities to ensure these objectives are met.

In addition to clause 9.1 and 9.2 of the [AFL's National Community Football Policy Handbook](#), the VAF A's expectations of Players are:

- Uphold the spirit of Amateur Status as defined in the VAF A Rules.
- Help foster an environment that is safe, equitable and welcoming for all people. Do not engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to incite hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of or discrimination against a person or group of persons on the ground of their age, race, religion, gender, colour, sexual preference, orientation or identity or special ability or disability. For the purpose of this policy, engaging in such conduct can be in-person or online.
- Understand and play by the rules. The [AFL Laws of Australian Football](#) and other rules and interpretations adopted by the VAF A exist for the proper safety, order and enjoyment of all people involved in VAF A football. It is the players' responsibility to understand and play by them. Do not ignore or deliberately break any rules.
- Show respect in your interactions with umpires, match officials, volunteers and VAF A staff. They all have a difficult task to perform and without these people you cannot play football in a safe environment. They are there to enforce the rules of play, but they cannot always be right. Accept incorrect calls graciously. Verbal or physical abuse towards an umpire is unacceptable behaviour and will result in a reportable offence immediately.
- Control your temper. Verbally abusing officials, volunteers, VAF A staff and other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in the VAF A. Loss of temper is not only unpleasant for other participants in the game; it can also distract you and have an adverse effect on your concentration and effectiveness.
- Be a team player. You owe it to yourself and others involved in your team to train and play to the best of your abilities. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you. Always consider others when making decisions.
- Cooperate and listen to your coach. Your coach has been appointed to coach your team because they have certain abilities and experience. They have also undergone training to ensure that you get the best coach that you can commensurate with your skill levels.
- After the match acknowledge the umpires and opposition players and respectfully attend the host club's social facilities.
- Respect the use of facilities and the equipment provided. These cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Tidy up after yourselves, adopt good hygiene practices and ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use.
- Any person who does not comply with this Players Code of Conduct may be investigated by the VAF A to determine whether they have engaged in conduct unbecoming a member of the Association or club of the Association or representative or official of a club, and face any sanctions accordingly.