

30. WAFC CODE OF CONDUCT

The major objective of Junior and Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe, positive environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. As a participant in junior football, your behaviour both on and off the field, reflects not only on yourself but also on your team, club and the sport as a whole. The WAFC Code of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective. Failing to do so may result in penalties being applied.

For avoidance of doubt, this Code of Conduct applies to all individuals involved, including Players, Officials, Volunteers, Umpires and Spectators.

SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
30.a	All participants must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'
FAIR PLAY	
30.b	Play by the rules and abide by the principles of fair play.
30.c	Accept both victory and defeat gracefully.
30.d	Players and Officials – shake hands with opponents, coaches and officials before and after each match.
30.e	Always consider the welfare and safety of all participants.
SHOW RESPECT	
30.f	Spectators – refrain from instructing, coaching or distracting players during the match.
30.g	Display and foster respect for all participants regardless of the match outcome.
30.h	Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences.
30.i	Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
30.j	Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not swearing, criticising, sledging, using derogatory language or harassing any other participant.
30.k	Maintain open and respectful communication with all participants. Address concerns through proper channels.
30.l	Stay in control of your emotions, regardless of the situation. Avoid verbal or physical outbursts and do not engage in behaviour that can harm others emotionally, mentally or physically.
SUPPORTING UMPIRES	
30.m	Accept the decision made by umpires and officials, even if you disagree. Show respect by not arguing or challenging their decisions during or after matches.
30.n	Never abuse an umpire. Abuse is defined as any language, terminology or behaviour intended to insult, offend, intimidate, threaten or harm.
30.o	Never approach an umpire unless you are a person authorised to do so under this handbook.
30.p	Never publicly criticise an umpire – raise any concerns you have with your Team Manager or Club.

30.q	Respect the critical and very difficult role that umpires have in our game. Understand that umpires have different levels of skill and experience and do the best they can.
HANDLING DISPUTES	
30.r	In the event of a dispute or concern, do not engage in confrontations, arguments or physical altercations instead, address respectfully through appropriate channels (eg Team Manager or Club Officials).
ANTI DISCRIMINATION AND INCLUSION	
30.s	Treat all individuals with fairness and respect. Reject discrimination, bullying or harassment in any form and report any incident through appropriate channels.
LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND BYLAWS	
30.t	Maintain a working knowledge of and adhering to all relevant AFL and WAFC laws, regulations, policies and by-laws.