



WEST AUGUSTA FOOTBALL CLUB
JUNIOR COLTS

Information Booklet and Player Agreement for Club, Players and Parents

“Respect”

“Honest”

“Pride”

“Inclusive”

Club vision

“To be the most successful and sustainable club, the club of choice”

- 1 Codes of Behaviour & Expectations
- 2 Delivery and Collection of Children to and from Games/Trainings and Transport
- 3 Spectator Behaviour
- 4 Communication Policy

The following Code of Behaviour sets out expectations for Officials, Players and Volunteers engaged in or participating in Junior Football at West Augusta Football Club. The Code of Behaviour aligns with the Club's Strategic Plan and Vision, namely "to be the most successful and sustainable club, the club of choice" demonstrating the core values of the Club.

▪ Respect ▪ Honest ▪ Pride ▪ Inclusive

1- Code of Behaviour

The "Code of Behavior" sets out the minimum standard for anyone involved with, or representing, the West Augusta Football Club.

It applies at all times regardless of role i.e coaching, playing, training or volunteering in an Club activity or capacity.

Club Expectations of All

- Respect the rights and worth of every person involved at West Augusta Football Club, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Demonstrate tolerance and treat each person as an individual.
- Display appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions, both on and off the field, particularly in relation to:
 - representation of West Augusta Football Club on social media (eg when at a Club function, representing the Club or wearing Club clothing);
 - responsible consumption of alcohol
 - accept the 'Zero tolerance' position in relation to illicit drugs.
- Play within the rules of Australian Rules football.
- Promote 'fair play' over 'winning at any cost'.
- Encourage and support opportunities for coaches, trainers, players and volunteers to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of Australian Rules football.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for personal decisions and actions.
- Ensure personal decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Ensure personal decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.

- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour by others

Our Commitment:

We (Coaches, Administrators, Officials of West Augusta Football Club) will:

On the field

- Ensure all registered players are included and can participate, regardless of their race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of Australian Rules football -]
- Demonstrate consistency, impartiality and objectivity when making decisions.
- Give players the chance to try out different playing positions.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else.
- Respect the talent, developmental stages and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices to promote the growth and development of young players.
- Ensure that any physical contact is appropriate to the situation eg tackling (in game), injury prevention/treatment (pre/post game) and that any adults involved with children have the necessary current Working with Children checks
- Remember that young people participate for fun, physical fitness and skill development – “winning” is only one part of this
- Educate players to understand that playing by the rules is their responsibility.
- Relate to other officials and opposition teams in a respectful manner, and address any poor sporting behaviour within our own Club

Off the field

- Encourage each person (player, coach, official, volunteer) to reach their full potential through coaching, training, playing and volunteering opportunities, wherever possible.
- Endorse and follow sport safety policies and practices.
- Endorse and follow policy and practices (and lead by example) - in relation to the responsible consumption of alcohol, and zero tolerance to illicit drugs.
- Listen to our players, with the aim that the time they spend playing at West Augusta Football Club is an overall positive experience.
- Accept that we are role models within the Club, and act accordingly.
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants - regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Keep up to date with coaching practices and qualifications
- Act responsibly in relation to the mandated responsibility to report suspicion of child abuse and neglect.
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- Apply rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of young people and to make participation fun.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards – and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Ensure quality supervision and instruction for players.
- Ensure that the types of programs, rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.

Your Commitment:

Players

You will:

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for personal enjoyment and physical improvement
- Contribute to your team to the best of your abilities
- Listen to, and respect your coach, and other parent helpers
- Tell your team mates when they have done something well (eg “great kick, brilliant mark”)
- Play by the rules and show respect for other players, coaches and officials:
 - Respect the decision of the umpire
 - If you need clarification on a decision, have your captain, coach or manager approach the umpire during a break, or after the game.
 - Respect your opposition and play fairly – recognise good plays, shake hands at the end of the match. Remember, without your opposition, there would be no competition.
 - Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players (including vilification) or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent will not be tolerated, and may result in match suspension.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team - your team’s performance will benefit — so will you.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants - regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Tell someone eg coach, team manager or club committee person if you have any fears or concerns for your wellbeing or safety

Parents & Spectators

You will:

- Encourage your child to participate, to do their best and have fun.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, rather than winning or losing.
- Volunteer to assist the coach or officials at training and games, where possible (they are volunteers too) and support the Club's other fundraising efforts where possible.
- Model appropriate behaviour, including respect for team mates, opposition players and officials.
- Respect the effort and performances of players and officials.
- Reject the use of harassment, bullying or violence in any form, whether by other spectators, coaches, officials or athletes.
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment - not yours.
- Encourage children to play according to the rules
- Respect officials' decisions - encourage children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for coaches, officials and administrators- remember they are volunteers.
- Applaud good performance and efforts - from all individuals and teams.
- Congratulate all participants- regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person -regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Ensure you are aware and follow the correct processes to follow if you have an issue or complaint ie approach the coach or Team Manager at the end of the game, and involve the Junior Colts Committee or Junior Football Administrator if the problem cannot be resolved.
- Support involvement in modified rules games and other junior development programs.

2- Delivery and collection of Children to and from Games/Trainings and Transport

Our commitment

Our club is committed to providing a safe environment for the participation of children and young people.

Part of this responsibility is planning to prevent children and young people being left alone or behind after practice or games.

This also includes arrangements for the transportation of your child, with your permission, to football matches that may be held within another town (older grades).

What we will do

- Make sure parents/caregiver and children know the time and location of practice and games, and when they can expect to deliver and collect their children.
- Request coaches and other sporting personnel to arrive before scheduled practice or game times.
- Give coaches a register of parent/caregiver emergency contact numbers and make sure they have access to a phone.
- Maintain a contact list of key people, such as managers, coaches, parents, emergency.
- Ensure that if parent/caregiver is late, coaches will try to make contact with them and:
 - ask the second to last child and their parent/caregiver to wait with the coach/official and the child
 - avoid transporting children to the child's home unless clear permission has been given by parent/caregivers
- Inform parents of the need for transportation when games are being played in another town.
- Handle any emergencies with common sense and according to our codes and guidelines.
- Accompany an injured or ill athlete who needs medical attention.

What you need to do

- Auskick, Under 7, Under 9 and Under 11 Parent/Caregivers to supervise your child for the duration of matches and practise at all times, if you are unable to do so then please make arrangements with a family member or friend who is willing to supervise.
- The West Augusta Football Club appointed coaches are responsible for your child's sporting development and should not be considered as a substitute for parental supervision.
- Collect your children on time.
- Inform the coach about any changes in arrangements for collecting your child.
- Liaise with Coaches and Officials at the West Augusta Football Club if you are unable to transport your child to games held in another town.

3- Spectator Behaviour

Our commitment

Our club is committed to providing a safe environment for participation. Aggressive, threatening or other inappropriate behaviour by members, their families, their friends, and other sporting personnel while attending a game or event will not be tolerated.

These behaviours specifically include:

- Using bad language
- Harassing or ridiculing players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- Making racist, religious, sexist or other inappropriate comments to players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- Any threatening behaviour or physical altercation between spectators and players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- Putting undue pressure on children, berating them or putting down their performance
- Drinking at a game or training or being drunk at a club event.

What we will do

- Provide members, their parents and other sporting personnel with our Code of Behaviour and make clear what is expected and the consequences of non-compliance.
- Reinforce messages of fair and respectful behaviour by displaying signs and posters around our facilities and providing information on our website, in our newsletter and through other club communication.
- Encourage our coaches and officials to complete training to develop their skills and confidence.
- Ban bringing alcohol to training, a game or no-alcohol club event.
- Consult with our local police and seek their support and advice on how to handle issues involving inappropriate behaviour by spectators prior to, at or after a game.
- Encourage the reporting of incidents and investigate inappropriate behaviours as outlined in this policy and take disciplinary or whatever other actions as are deemed necessary (e.g. appoint a ground official to monitor behaviour).
- Encourage our players, coaches, officials and spectators to call the police if they are concerned about escalating behaviour and their safety or the safety of others.

What we ask you to do

- Help create a positive atmosphere for players, officials and other spectators by showing respect for players, officials and other spectators.
- Abide by our club's Code of Behaviour and refrain from using bad language, harassing or ridiculing others or behaving in a threatening or violent manner.
- If you are aware of inappropriate spectator behaviour and you feel confident to do so, speak with the person and ask them to stop. If there is a ground official or committee member present, ask for their assistance.
- Report any inappropriate spectator behaviour to the club president or someone in a position of authority.
- Call the police or a club official if you are concerned for your safety or the safety of others.

Non-Compliance

Parents or others found to have behaved inappropriately, and who are associate members or have agreed to abide by our club's Code of Behaviour and this policy, may face disciplinary action as outlined in our Member Protection Policy.

4- Communication Policy

Our commitment

Electronic communication is essential for sharing club news and information with our members. Our communication will be timely, appropriate and related to club business.

What we will do

We use a range of electronic tools to communicate with our members.

Our communication will protect members' privacy, maintain clear boundaries and ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur.

Website

- Our website will include current information on competitions, social events, committees, policies, constitution, rules and by-laws.
- No offensive content or photos will be published.
- If we intend to publish a photo of a child, we will first seek permission from his or her parents and take care not to provide identifying information.
- We will seek feedback from members to improve the information available on the site.

SMS and email

Committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to provide information about competition, training, club-sanctioned social events and other club business, however:

- SMS messages will be short and about club / team matters
- email communication will be used when more information is required
- Communication involving children will be directed through their parents.

Social media websites

- We treat all social media postings, blogs, status updates and tweets as public 'comment'.
- Postings (written, photos or videos) will be family-friendly and feature positive club news and events.
- No personal information about our members will be disclosed.
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure a person's reputation.
- No statements will be made that might bring our club into disrepute.
- Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements will not be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed and those responsible will be blocked from the site.

What we ask you to do

We expect our members to conduct themselves appropriately when using electronic communication to share information with other members or posting material on public websites connected to the club.

Electronic communication:

- Should be restricted to club matters
- Must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person
- Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person
- Should respect and maintain the privacy of members
- Must not bring the club into disrepute.
- Seek permission prior to uploading photographs of children – not all parents are comfortable having their child's photo on Social Media.

Coaches and others who work with children and young people must direct electronic communication through the child's parents.

Non-compliance

Members may face disciplinary action for sending inappropriate electronic communications or posting online content or comments that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member, as outlined in our member protection policy or code of conduct.

Under certain circumstances, cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, social media, instant messaging or website) is a criminal offence that can be reported to the police.

In addition, members who publish false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g., Facebook, YouTube, Snap Chat, Instagram, Twitter) may be liable for defamation.

Presentation of Club uniform & merchandise

In addition to the above, all affiliated members of the West Augusta Football Club should remember that when wearing the West Augusta Football Club uniform or merchandise, that our behaviour is displayed in a positive manner.

West Augusta Football Club Junior Committee

Carah Curley – 0409 694 279

Suzy Graham – 0419 608 822

Chloe Hunter – 0417 280 040

Danielle Zubrinich – 0437 389 040

Junior Football Director - Darren Broadbridge – 0407 714 802 (*shift worker, message and will call back*)

Final note

The West Augusta Football Club is committed to ensuring everyone gets to participate and have a fair go.

The West Augusta Football Club junior footballers are pivotal to the club's ongoing future. The future success of the club will be directly influenced by what we do now.

We hope all of our junior players have a lot of fun and enjoy their footy, so that they can continue to keep playing at Westies for many years to come.



Booklet reviewed 14.3.23