

## SMJFL Codes of Conduct

All Participating Clubs of the SMJFL must adopt specific Codes of Conduct. Everyone involved with the league, from players to spectators, must adhere to the below minimum standards. Potential penalties may apply for those who fail to act in accordance with the codes.

The SMJFL requires the below Codes of Conduct as well as those in the National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH) to be followed.

### Players Agree To:

- Play by the rules – the rules of your Club, the League, the Laws of Australian Football (LOAF) and the National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).
- Never argue with an Umpire or Official – without these people, you can't play football.
- Control your temper – verbal abuse and sledging of Umpires, Officials or other Players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games.
- Be a team player – it's a team game, treat it that way.
- Treat all Players as you would like to be treated – fairly.
- Co-operate with your Coach, Officials, Umpires and team-mates.
- Play for your own enjoyment and to improve your skills.
- Do not use ugly remarks based on race, religion, cultural background, gender, sexuality, appearance, disability or football ability – you'll let down your team, Club and family if you do, and many such comments are now illegal

### Volunteers (including but not limited to Coaches, Team managers, etc.) Agree To:

- Always prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, always maintaining a professional approach.
- Act with transparency and avoid situations where you are alone with a child.
- Respect each child's privacy, personal space, and boundaries.
- Do not initiate or participate in private communication with a child.
- Communicate only through approved club channels and platforms.
- Treat all children fairly, avoiding any form of discrimination or favouritism.
- Report any concerns, suspicions, or disclosures without delay.

Please Note: Coaches also must adhere to the AFL Coach's Code of Conduct as part of the applicable Coach Accreditation Course.

### **Parents & Supporters Agree To:**

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses – supporters are there to support, not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all Players, Coaches, Umpires and Spectators – physical or verbal abuse will 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 – you'll let down your coach, teammates and family if you do, and many such comments are now illegal.

By registering their child with the SMJFL, parents agree to abide by these principles and support their Participating Club in its undertakings and authorise their Club to take any necessary disciplinary actions where warranted against any Players, Parents and/or Spectators for repeated or serious breaches of these Codes of Conduct.

**END**