

STRATHMORE FOOTBALL CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

1. **PURPOSE** As an organisation which includes several hundred people - ranging in age and experience - and involved in competitive sport, this policy aims to guide and govern the behaviour of members.
2. **POLICY STATEMENT** Strathmore Football Club expects a high level of behaviour from all our members. When these levels are met they often go unnoticed. This policy aims to deal with matters in a fair and effective manner when this level is not met or when members are in dispute over a Club matter regarding conduct or behaviour.
3. **SCOPE** The Strathmore Football Club Code of Conduct covers all players, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and spectators and incorporates the Strathmore Football Club Child Safety Policy and Social Media Policy - thus extending to the conduct of participants both within and beyond the bounds of the Club.
4. **EXPECTED BEHAVIOUR AT OUR CLUB** Our Club is run and managed by volunteers – both on the Committee and on many other levels of coaching and team management, in conjunction with other game day roles, at both junior and senior levels. All these volunteers are members of the Club and give their time to ensure its smooth running for the benefit of all Members.

Expectations of Parents/Guardians and Spectators:

- Remember that children play football for fun – they are not playing for your entertainment, nor are they miniature professionals, involvement is for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage players to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the player's efforts – never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or losing the game. Teach that honest effort is the victory, not the winning.
- Remember that players learn best from example. Applaud good play by both teams.
- Encourage players to always participate according to the rules and respect official's decisions.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials.
- An umpire's job is a difficult one – put yourself in their position – how would you like to be treated?
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public. Raise any concerns privately.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing or using foul language to umpires, players, coaches, or other spectators.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Respect the rights and dignity of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Support all efforts to remove verbal, racial and physical abuse and to settle disagreement without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Discuss the Codes of Conduct with your child so that you are all aware of your obligations.
- Actively promote the Code of Conduct and foster high standards of behaviour for your Club at all times.

Failure to adhere to the Codes of Conduct may result in the withdrawal or suspension of your child's registration to play in the EDFL. In addition, your own participation as a volunteer may be not permitted by the Club.

Expectations of Players:

- Always play by the laws and rules – be a team player – be a good sport.
- Control your temper – treat others as you would like to be treated – bullying will not be tolerated
- Verbal abuse to umpires, officials, parents or other players is not acceptable.
- Never argue with an umpire or official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach.
- Cooperate, support and encourage your team mates. Your teams' performance will benefit, so will you. Don't forget to acknowledge opponents, officials and umpires, e.g. shake hands before and after the game.
- Play fair, respect the rights and dignity of all players regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Avoid ugly remarks based on race or gender.
- Play for the "fun of it" – remember it's just a game!

General Behaviour:

- The change rooms and clubrooms are yours to use and respect.
- The use of illicit drugs is not tolerated.
- Unruly behaviour is not permitted.
- Respect the decision or direction of all club staff or committee person at all times.

5. POLICY BREACHES

All breaches must be reported in writing and emailed to coc@strathmorefc.com.au

6. COMPLAINTS AND REPORTING

Role of Code of Conduct Officer:

- Receive and record all complaints.
- Investigate and request further information if required.
- Dismiss any complaint if determined to be frivolous or ill founded.
- If it is determined by the Code of Conduct Officer (CoCO) that the matter should proceed to a hearing then the CoCO will form a panel to adjudicate the matter.
- This panel will hear details of the complaint and investigation. If determined the person has breached the Code of Conduct the panel will determine the appropriate penalty.
- The determination of the panel is final. There is no right of appeal.
- Report the outcome back to the Committee.

- 7. RECORD KEEPING AND INFORMATION SHARING** Records of complaints will be kept by the Code of Conduct Officer and tabled at Committee meetings as appropriate. Where required confidentiality will be respected.

THIS POLICY WAS PASSED BY THE COMMITTEE IN MAY 2026 AND WILL BE REVIEWED IN 2028/9