

Nelson Bay Football Club Incorporated



CODES OF BEHAVIOUR POLICY

1.0 FAIR PLAY POLICY

The Club is committed to fair play for all involved with the sport of football. The sport must be enjoyable by all and this only happen when every person at the event – players, coaches, administrators, officials, spectators, supporters, media, parents - conducts himself/herself in a sportsmanlike manner and follows certain key principles that constitute a code of behaviour for that specific person. The elimination of negative aspects of football sporting events, including behaviours that can be collectively ascribed to ‘sports rage’, can only be of benefit to all participants. The Club promotes the positive behaviours which only improve the levels of enjoyment and fulfilment of on-field and off-field persons.

1.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – PLAYER

- 2.01** Play by the rules of the game.
- 2.02** Never argue with the referee or any other official there to help you. If you disagree, ask your captain, coach or manager to courteously approach the official during a break or after the competitive event.
- 2.03** A good player is a self-disciplined person; stay in control of your temper always. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are behaviours that are neither acceptable nor permissible.
- 2.04** Work hard on your own game and work equally hard to play your part in the team effort as there will be benefit to both the team’s performance and your own performance.
- 2.05** Be a good sport – respect and applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or by the opposition.
- 2.06** Treat all participants in football events as you would like to be treated. Never bully, take ‘cheap shots’ or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- 2.07** Cooperate with your team coach, team-mates and opponents – without them there would be no competition event.
- 2.08** Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please other persons such as coaches, parents etc.
- 2.09** Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability level, cultural background or religion

3.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – PLAYER

- 3.01** Remember that players participate for pleasure and enjoyment and that winning is only one part of the fun of the football experience. It may not be as necessary to emphasise winning as to 'decriminalise' losing. Learning to lose gracefully is one of the learning experiences of football.
- 3.02** Operate within the rules and spirit of soccer football and teach your players respect for rules and authority by word and example.
- 3.03** Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm; remember that unreasonable demands rarely bear fruit.
- 3.04** Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience; all players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- 3.05** Avoid overplaying the talented players; the just-average need and deserve equal time.
- 3.06** Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- 3.07** Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with football – this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators – and encourage players to do the same.
- 3.08** Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition – do not let injured players compete, for the sake of their own well-being.
- 3.09** Be positive in your approach to players – avoid harsh criticism or ridicule. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of the player's gender, ability, religion or cultural background.
- 3.10** Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young persons.
- 3.11** Instill in players the importance of making an honest effort and developing skills as much as possible; encourage the development of basic football skills if involved in coaching young players.
- 3.12** Restrict any physical contact with players to that appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- 3.13** Support every effort to rid the sport of football of verbal and physical abuse.

4.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – ADMINISTRATOR

- 4.01** Involve players and young persons in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the sporting activity of football.
- 4.02** Provide equal opportunities for all who wish to do so to participate in football activities.
- 4.03** Create pathways for young persons to participate in football not just as players but as a coach, referee, administrator etc.
- 4.04** Ensure that rules, equipment, duration of matches and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.
- 4.05** Ensure the provision of quality supervision and instruction for all players but particularly for young players.
- 4.06** Remember that people, particularly young people, participate for their enjoyment and benefit – do not overemphasise awards.
- 4.07** Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and assist in improving the standards of coaching and officiating.
- 4.08** Ensure that everyone involved in the sport of football emphasises fair play and not winning at all costs.
- 4.09** Provide a code of behaviour sheet for spectators, officials, parents, coaches, supporters and players and encourage all participants to follow this code.
- 4.10** Remember to set an example - your behaviour and comments should at all times be positive and supportive.
- 4.11** Make it clear that abuse, including verbal abuse, of any persons involved in football is unacceptable and shall result in disciplinary action.
- 4.12** Support the implementation of national junior sport policy and the specific national policy of the sport of football.
- 4.13** Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person involved with the sport of football, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

5.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – OFFICIAL

- 5.01** Apply the rules and regulations that have been determined are applicable to the skill levels and needs of players of certain age and experience levels.
- 5.02** Compliment and encourage all participants.
- 5.03** Be consistent, objective and courteous in making and handing down your decisions.
- 5.04** Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- 5.05** Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors.
- 5.06** Encourage and promote rule changes which will make participation more enjoyable.
- 5.07** Be a good sport yourself – actions speak louder than words.
- 5.08** Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and the principles of growth and development of players, particularly younger players.
- 5.09** Place the safety and welfare of all participants above any other considerations.
- 5.10** Remember that you set an example – your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive – avoid negative acts.
- 5.11** Give all players a ‘fair go’ regardless of their gender, ability, age, cultural background or religion.

6.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – SPECTATORS

- 6.01** Remember that players participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours!
- 6.02** Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams. Be prepared to congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the match outcome.
- 6.03** Respect the decisions of officials and encourage all players, particularly young persons, to do the same.
- 6.04** Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake; positive comments are motivational whereas negative comments are destructive.
- 6.05** Condemn the use of violence in any form, physical or verbal, whether by players, spectators, coaches, officials or administrators.
- 6.06** Show respect for your team’s opponents; without them there would be no game.
- 6.07** Encourage players to follow the rules and accept the official’s decisions; teach players that questioning of or dissenting from decisions of officials is unacceptable at any time.
- 6.08** Do not use foul language, sledge or in any way harass players, coaches, officials or administrators over any perceived disagreement over interpretation of rules.
- 6.09** Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player in the sport of football, regardless of the player’s gender, ability, age, cultural background or religion.

7.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – SUPPORTERS

- 7.01** Encourage players, particularly young persons, to develop basic skills in a variety of sports and discourage over-specialisation in one event, sport or playing position.
- 7.02** Help to create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour as well as basic skills.
- 7.03** Support the concept of players, particularly young persons, being made aware of the positive benefits of participation in football sporting activities.
- 7.04** Help players understand that playing by the rules is the player’s responsibility but assist by studying and understanding the rules of football to dispel ignorance.
- 7.05** Help young players in particular understand the differences between the junior competition in which they participate and professional sport.
- 7.06** Provide support and understanding for all young persons and players in general to participate in administration, coaching and refereeing as well as playing.
- 7.07** Support the implementation of the national junior sport policy and the specific national policy of the sport of football.
- 7.08** Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability level, age, cultural background or religion.
- 7.09** Keep up to date with developments in coaching practices and the principles of physical growth and development and be aware of the latest coaching and teaching resources for football generally but specifically for junior levels.

8.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – MEDIA

- 8.01 Provide coverage of young people’s and adult competitive football sport events.
- 8.02 Be aware of the differences between adult, professional and modified young people’s football sporting events.
- 8.03 Do not highlight isolated incidents of inappropriate sporting behaviour.
- 8.04 Focus on fair play and honest efforts by all players.
- 8.05 Do not place unfair expectations on young players – they are not miniature professionals.
- 8.06 Describe and report of the problems of young person’s participating in organized sport.
- 8.07 Focus on the abilities, not the disabilities, of players, particularly young players.
- 8.08 Avoid reinforcing stereotypical views on the involvement of males and females in the sport of football.
- 8.09 Give equal time and space to the reporting of male and female football events.
- 8.10 Familiarise yourself with the National Junior Football sport policy.
- 8.11 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

9.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – PARENTS

- 9.01 Remember that young people participate in football for their pleasure and enjoyment, not yours.
- 9.02 Encourage young persons to participate, do not force them.
- 9.03 Focus of the young person’s efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- 9.04 Encourage young persons to always play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility, verbal abuse or violence.
- 9.05 Never ridicule or yell at a young person for making a mistake of losing a competitive event.
- 9.06 Remember that young person’s learn best by positive example. Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
- 9.07 Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from football sporting activities.
- 9.08 Respect officials’ decisions and teach young players to do likewise.
- 9.09 Show control, respect and appreciation to all involved with football – this includes players, opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, other parents and spectators – and encourage players to do the same. Remember that without many of these volunteer persons, your child would not be able to participate in football sporting activity.
- 9.10 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person participating in the sport of football, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- 9.11 Play your important role in the prevention of sport rage; although sport rage is often the result of many factors, parents can reduce its incidence by being good role models and helping to create a positive sporting environment. Consider and deal with each of the following six important actions by parents:
 - 9.11.01 Understand what young persons want from football sport – discuss this with your child – focus on what he/she likes most about the game;
 - 9.11.02 Encourage fair play – young person’s learn the principles of fair play of respect, integrity and fairness through their involvement with football – be a good role model;
 - 9.11.03 keep your emotions in check – unruly adult emotion at young persons’ sport is sport rage at its worst – never use bad language, harass others or get involved with verbal abuse of anyone;
 - 9.11.04 respect the coach – interact with courtesy through the team manager and leave the coaching to the coach, regardless of whether you agree or disagree;
 - 9.11.05 respect the referee and officials – these persons are there to make the game fair and more enjoyable for everyone – they are human and may occasionally make mistakes – you must understand this and explain it to your child – your behaviour towards these persons will affect the player’s attitude;
 - 9.11.06 uphold the parental code of conduct – you must understand, accept, support and uphold the parental code of conduct, including the

requirement not to drink alcohol at junior matches or arrive at the field intoxicated, which can be enforced at football sporting events.