



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VAF A PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

The VAF A aims to provide males and females with the opportunity to play an enjoyable and competitive game of Australian Rules football in a safe and positive environment. This code of conduct has been developed to give participants an understanding of their responsibilities to ensure these objectives are met.

VAF A expectations of Players:

- Understand and adhere to the [AFL Victoria COVID-19 Return to Play](#) protocols which specifically exist for the health and safety of all people involved in VAF A football.
- Uphold the spirit of Amateur Status as defined in the VAF A Rules (still under construction).
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals including refraining from any discriminatory practices or ridicule on the basis of ability, age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or preference, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- Understand and play by the rules. The [AFL Laws of the Game](#) and other rules and interpretations adopted by the VAF A exist for the proper safety, order and enjoyment of all people involved in VAF A football. It is the players' responsibility to understand and play by them. Do not ignore or deliberately break any rules.
- Respect umpires, match officials and volunteers. They all have a difficult task to perform and without these people you cannot play football in a safe environment. They are there to enforce the rules of play, but they cannot always be right. Accept incorrect calls graciously. Verbal or physical abuse towards an umpire is unacceptable behaviour and will result in a reportable offence immediately.
- Control your temper. Verbally abusing officials, volunteers and other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in the VAF A. Loss of temper is not only unpleasant for other participants in the game; it can also distract you and have an adverse effect on your concentration and effectiveness.
- Be a team player. You owe it to yourself and others involved in your team to train and play to the best of your abilities. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you. Always consider others when making decisions.
- Cooperate and listen to your coach. Your coach has been appointed to coach your team because they have certain abilities and experience. They have also undergone training to ensure that you get the best coach that you can commensurate with your skill levels.
- After the match acknowledge the umpires and opposition players and respectfully attend the host club's social facilities.
- Respect the use of facilities and the equipment provided. These cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Tidy up after yourselves, adopt good hygiene practices and ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use.

Updated: August 2020
Review Date: Annually