Mazenod Football Club – Players & Parents Code of Conduct (2025)

Purpose

Mazenod Football Club is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all players. This Code of Conduct outlines expected behaviours for all players and parents, promotes fair play, and ensures compliance with club rules, laws of the game, and child safety requirements.

All players, whether juniors or seniors, and all parents/guardians are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct at training, matches, and club-related events.

1. Players – General Behaviour

Players must:

- Play by the rules and within the spirit of the game.
- Treat all players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect.
- Control their temper; verbal abuse or attempts to intimidate others is unacceptable.
- Cooperate with coaches, teammates, opponents, and match officials.
- Focus on personal effort and team contribution; play for enjoyment, not solely to please others.
- Remove all jewellery prior to training and match play to prevent injury.
- Refrain from using banned substances or alcohol at any time.
- Respect club property, visiting clubs' property, and playing facilities.
- Be mindful of child safety; report any concerns immediately to a coach, Child Safety Officer, or via official channels.
- Avoid bullying, discriminatory behaviour, or harassment of any kind.

Respecting Match Officials

- Do not argue with referees or assistant referees.
- If you disagree with a decision, a team captain or coach may address it during a break or after the match.
- Always play within the laws of the game and in the spirit of fair competition.

Safety and Player Welfare

- Avoid dangerous or reckless play that may cause injury to self or others.
- Pay attention to the wellbeing of sick or injured players; only participate when cleared to do so safely.
- Follow coaches' instructions to maintain a safe playing environment.
- Report any safety concerns or incidents immediately.

2. Red Card / Disciplinary Guidelines

Red Card Fines (Seniors only):

- Senior men's players receiving a red card will have fines deducted from their playing allowance where applicable.
- All other players must pay fines directly to the club via bank transfer.

Exceptions:

- A red card may be deemed unavoidable in specific circumstances (e.g., game-saving tackle). The club's Football Director has discretion to approve exceptions.

Unacceptable Offences:

- Dissent towards match officials or opposition players.
- Swearing on the pitch.
- Reckless or rough tackles outside the spirit of the game.
- Deliberate handball to gain an advantage.
- Fighting or deliberately causing injury.
- Accumulation of 5 yellow cards in a season (seniors).

Zero Tolerance:

- Breaches may result in expulsion from the club and cancellation of registration without refund.
- Junior players focus on fair play, safety, respect, and enjoyment; fines do not apply.
- Senior players are expected to uphold all behavioural standards and may be subject to fines for red card offences.

3. Parents / Guardians Code of Conduct

Parents and guardians play a vital role in creating a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment for all players. To support this, you are expected to:

- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Act as a positive role model, demonstrating respect, fairness, and integrity.
- Support all efforts to remove racial vilification and any other behaviour that will degrade the game.
- Respect and support decisions made by match officials, coaches, club officials, and administrators — and instruct your children to do the same.
- Raise any issues through the correct channels: Club, FFV Tribunal, Discipline department, or Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.
- Limit alcohol consumption near the technical area or sideline.
- Avoid smoking outdoors within 10 metres of sporting venues during under-18 events.
- Stay up to date with club communications through official channels: Instagram, TeamApp, email, and your team's WhatsApp group. Important information about training, games, events, and club policies will be communicated via these platforms.

Child Safety / Safeguarding

- For detailed information on child safety, including reporting procedures and expected adult behaviour, please refer to the Mazenod Football Club **Child Safe Code of Conduct (2025)**.

Volunteering and Club Involvement

- Parents and guardians are encouraged to support the club by volunteering where possible.
- Volunteer opportunities include assisting at events, supporting teams, or taking on roles such as Team Manager.
- For volunteering opportunities, please contact **info@mazenodfootballclub.com.au**.

4. Disciplinary Action & Appeals

- Any player, parent, guardian, or volunteer who breaches this Code of Conduct may face disciplinary action, which could include:
    - Verbal or written warnings
    - Suspension from training or matches
    - Expulsion from the club
    - Cancellation of registration without refund
- Disciplinary action will be determined by the Club's Football Director, Board, or appointed committee after reviewing the incident.
- Anyone who is sanctioned under the disciplinary process has the right to appeal the decision in accordance with the Mazenod Football Club Constitution.
- Appeals must be submitted in writing within the timeframe specified by the Club's disciplinary procedures.

5. Concussion Policy

All players and parents must familiarise themselves with the **Club's Concussion Policy** and follow all procedures regarding suspected concussions.