

Fair Play Code

Be Fair Play Fair – It's Your Code

The new Fair Play Code outlines the standards of behaviour expected for everyone involved in sport and recreation in Victoria

The Victorian Government committed to refreshing the state's guidelines, the Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport under the Victorian integrity in sport action plan 2017-2018. The Code has not been updated since 2010.

The Fair Play Code incorporates the original aim of encouraging appropriate standards of behaviour to enable every Victorian to be involved in sport and recreation that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. It also includes new integrity, respect, responsibility, fairness and safety guiding principles as well as guidance on responsibilities, breaches and seeking further information.

Victorian sport and recreation organisations should apply the standards of the Fair Play Code from 1 July 2018. They are encouraged to incorporate the Fair Play Code into their code of conduct, member protection policy, constitution or other governance documents.

State sporting associations and recreation bodies, sport and recreation associations, leagues or clubs in Victoria must demonstrate adherence to, and enforcement of the Fair Play Code, to be eligible for existing and future funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

It is vital that everyone involved in sport and recreation in Victoria is committed to the Fair Play Code standards, to help maintain the integrity of sport and recreation for the general good of the Victorian community.

Responsibilities

Sport & Recreation Association – League and Club

Check code compliance with any aligned state sporting association or recreation body Adopt, promote, and establish processes to comply with and enforce, the code Ensure members have access to and agree to abide by the code Demonstrate code compliance to be eligible for Sport and Recreation Victoria funding.

Official or volunteer

Be informed about, abide by, promote and recognise compliance with, the code Report a potential code breach to appropriate authorities.

Player or participant

Be informed about the implications of the code on participation, rights and obligations and abide by the code Ask a club official about code implementation.

Parent

Educate children about the importance of demonstrating code behaviours and model these behaviours at all times
Be informed about what actions to take for a potential code breach.

Spectator

Abide by the code when attending community sport and recreation, training and club sanctioned activities
Be informed about what actions to take for a potential code breach.

Member of public

Abide by the code when attending community sport and recreation, training and club sanctioned activities
Be informed about what actions to take if involved in, or a witness to, a potential code breach.

State Sporting Association & Recreation Body

Ensure the code is incorporated into a governance document
Establish complaint handling processes and sanctions for code breaches
Ensure all involved have access to, are aware of obligations and can exercise rights under, the code
Demonstrate code compliance to be eligible for Sport and Recreation Victoria funding.

Local Council

Provide access to and encourage promotion of the code to member clubs and the local community
Ensure sport and recreation clubs who are tenants at a facility are code compliant to be eligible for Sport and Recreation Victoria funding.

Breaches

To report any concerns or suspected breaches of the Fair Play Code refer to:

- the relevant state sporting association or recreation body, sport and recreation association, league or club's person responsible for handling complaints, or complaint handling policy in their code of conduct, member protection policy, constitution, or other governance documents
- an external authority, if potential unlawful conduct or when required by law.

Further information

- **Sport and Recreation Victoria** T: 1300 650 172 [Email Information](mailto:info@sport.vic.gov.au) <info@sport.vic.gov.au>
- **Vicsport**
- **National Integrity of Sport Unit**
- **Play by the Rules**
- **Australian Sports Commission**
- **Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority**

Principles

The Fair Play Code outlines a set of guiding principles on expected standards of behaviour for every person involved in sport and recreation in Victoria.

This includes every player, participant, coach, support person, official, administrator, club member, spectator, parent, volunteer or member of the public involved with sport and recreation in Victoria. All should demonstrate the principles of integrity, respect, responsibility, fairness and safety in relation to sport, recreation, training and club sanctioned activities by:

Integrity

- being honest, fair, respectful, trustworthy, reliable, open and transparent in dealings with others

- avoiding any real or perceived conflicts of interest
- striving to earn and sustain a high level of community trust and goodwill
- not engaging in or advocating the possession and use of banned performance enhancing substances or methods, or illicit drugs
- not participating in, or encouraging action that may jeopardise the integrity of sport and recreation including match-fixing, illegal sports betting and other corruption.

Respect

- treating everyone involved in sport and recreation in a considerate, objective and courteous manner with proper regard for their rights, dignity and worth
- refraining from any form of discrimination, harassment, bullying, abuse, child abuse, intimidation, victimisation or vilification of others, including on the basis of age, race, sex, disability, sexuality, gender identity or religion
- recognising and valuing the contribution of all to sport and recreation, including volunteer coaches, officials and administrators who give up their valuable time to make sport and recreation happen.

Responsibility

- considering and accepting the consequences of one's actions and decisions
- being a positive role model by displaying self-control, respect, care and diligence towards all involved with sport and recreation
- complying with specified child safe standards of conduct expected of adults when dealing and interacting with persons under 18 years of age
- understanding the possible consequences of breaching the *Fair Play Code* and immediately reporting any potential breaches to appropriate authorities.

Fairness

- understanding and playing by the rules and spirit of sport and recreation
- being informed, consistent, impartial, just and reasonable in dealings with others
- being a 'good sport' by encouraging and praising fair play over winning at all costs
- providing a 'fair go' to people of all abilities to be involved in sport and recreation and reach their full potential.

Safety

- providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment that places the health, welfare and well-being of participants above all else
- taking all reasonable steps to ensure equipment, facilities and programs meet health and safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of participants
- being aware of and supporting policies and practices in relation to injury management, return to play, adverse weather and child safe standards
- showing concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured and immediately reporting any safety issues to appropriate authorities.

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 366 356 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email the Strategy team](mailto:strategy@sport.vic.gov.au) <strategy@sport.vic.gov.au>

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