



## **Rupertswood Football Club Inc.**

### **Parents and Supporters Code of Conduct**

It is expected that Parents and Supporters (supporters) at all times, conduct themselves in a manner that is in keeping with the Club principles and ethos (as detailed in the club's "Vision, Mission & Values" statement) when involved in a club sanctioned event. Club sanctioned events are:-

- any match on game day,
- training, and
- any Club sanctioned social event.

In the event of a supporter behaving in an inappropriate or unacceptable manner at any of the above, the matter may be referred to the Mediation Panel for review.

Inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour is any behaviour or action that is illegal, immoral, conflicts with this or any other policy the Club may implement, or behaviour that a reasonable person would generally considered inappropriate or unacceptable within the community or society at large.

Any serious breach of this policy will be referred to the Mediation Panel for review, and may result in a review of membership privileges or other remedial action deemed appropriate by the Mediation Panel, Club or governing body.

The Parents and Supporters Code of Conduct is as follows:

- Rupertswood Football Club supports and adopts the AFL's Kids First program and Code Of Conduct (see below for details).
- Encourage participation but don't force it. Teach the message that it's not whether you win or lose but how you play the game.
- Encourage an understanding of the rules by showing a genuine interest.
- Never ridicule mistakes or defeats – you will destroy confidence very quickly.
- Remember you are there to support the children's enjoyment before your own.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectator.
- Personally recognize all volunteers who are giving their valuable time.
- Never publicly criticize umpires – raise your concerns calmly in private with the coaches or team manager.
- Lead the way in stamping about all racial, verbal or physical abuse.

## **AFL Kids First**

Excerpt from the AFL web site, [www.afl.com.au](http://www.afl.com.au)

Today's parents have an important role in the delivery and support of sporting activities for their own and other children. With it comes a clear responsibility to act in a constructive and encouraging manner at all times.

Barracking and wanting your child to perform well is human nature, but it is critical that this should be done in a responsible manner avoiding the ugly parent syndrome at all times.

The AFL invests over \$23 million annually in strategies that support the participation of 450,000 players throughout Australia. AFL Kids First is a program that has been designed for leagues and associations to guide parents so that both they and their children obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their participation in junior programs and matches.

AFL Kids First includes recommendations for leagues, associations and their clubs to manage situations where parents become over-enthusiastic and risk having a negative impact on their children's activities.

The basic principles of AFL Kids First are to remind parents that:

- Sport for children is a vital part of their growing up.
- Children like to win, but more importantly, they want to have fun.
- Parents need to set the right example at the sports ground, not just at home.
- Parents should be proud of their child's efforts irrespective of the result.
- Sport is important to children's self esteem.

## **AFL Kids First Code of Conduct**

1. Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
2. Encourage children to participate – do not force participation upon them.
3. Focus on the child's efforts and self esteem rather than whether they win or lose.
4. Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or for the team losing a game.
6. Remember that children learn best by example – applaud the efforts of all players in both teams.
7. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
8. Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators, without whom your child could not participate.
9. Respect umpires' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
10. Remember that smoking and the consumption of alcohol is unacceptable at junior sport.

For more details on the AFL's Kids First program, visit the AFL web site on [www.afl.com.au](http://www.afl.com.au).