



## SYDNEY UNITED CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct outlined below is prepared as a uniform guide for the behaviour of ALL players, coaches, parents, supporters and officials representing the Sydney United Football Club. The Sydney United Football Club is a club held in high regard and all associated with it shall at all times exhibit good, courteous and professional behaviour. Swearing or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

**Persons breaching the Code of Conduct will be required to attend the clubs Penalties & Disciplinary (P & D) Committee to explain their actions.**

**Failure to abide by this Code of Conduct shall result in the likely expulsion of offending person/s from the Club.**

### PLAYER'S CODE

Players will at all times have good manners and be courteous to others whether at training, participating at games or representing the Club in any way.

Players are expected to fulfil their commitment to attend all games and training sessions held for their team and must inform their Coach or Manager if they are unable to attend.

- Play by the rules. It is just as important to understand the spirit of the rules. They are designed to make the game fun to play and fun to watch. By sticking to the rules, you will enjoy the game more.
- Play to win. Winning is the object of playing any game. Never set out to lose. If you do not play to win, you are cheating your opponents, deceiving those who are watching, and also fooling yourself. Never give up against stronger opponents but never relent against weaker ones.
- Play fair. Winning is without value if victory has been achieved unfairly or dishonestly. Playing fair requires courage and character and is more satisfying. Playing fair earns you respect, while cheats are detested.
- Refrain from conduct which may be regarded as sexual harassment towards fellow players and coaches.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition. Fair play means respect. Referees are there to maintain discipline and fair play.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent, are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
- Be honest with the coach concerning illness and injury and ability to train and compete to the best of your ability.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you. A professional appearance relating to language, manner, temper and punctuality is to be adopted at all times.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team, or the opposition.





- Accept defeat with dignity. Nobody wins all the time. Learn to lose graciously. Don't seek excuses for defeat, genuine reasons will always be self-evident. Congratulate the winners with good grace. Don't blame the referee or anyone else. Good losers earn more respect than bad winners.
- Promote the interests of football, it is the world's greatest game. Think of football's interests before your own. Think how your actions may affect the image of the game. Talk about the positive things in the game. Encourage other people to watch it or play it fairly. Be an ambassador for the game.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor. Reject corruption, drugs, racism, violence and other dangers to our sport. Watch out for attempts to tempt you into cheating or using drugs. Drugs have no place in football, or in our society. Say no to drugs.
- Help others to resist corrupting pressures. You may hear that team-mates or other people you know are being tempted to cheat in some way. Give them the strength to resist. Remind them of their commitment to their team-mates and to the game itself. Form a block of solidarity, like a solid defence on the field of play.
- Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition. They have the same rights as you have, including the right to be respected.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Denounce those who attempt to discredit our sport. Don't be ashamed to show up anybody who you are sure is trying to make others cheat. It's better to expose them and have them removed before they can do any damage. It often takes more courage to denounce what is wrong, than to go along with a dishonest plan.
- Honour those who defend football's good reputation. The good name of football has survived because the vast majority of people who love the game are honest and fair. Sometimes somebody does something exceptional that deserves our special recognition. They should be honoured and their fine example made public. This encourages others to act in the same way.

## Training

- Players must be ready to START training at the nominated time;
- If you cannot attend training you must contact your Coach or Manager;
- Injured players are to attend training unless given permission not to by their Coach or Manager;
- All players MUST attend training sessions. Failure to attend a training session without an appropriate excuse will result in the player missing the starting line-up for the following game;
- On return from injury, the player will only be permitted to train/play on receipt of letter stating fitness from a Physiotherapist or Doctor;





- When training, shin pads must be worn at **all times**;
- Players are not to wear Club strip to training or away from official Club events during the course of the season.
- In the event of wet weather, contact you Coach or Manager; Only Coaches/Managers, Club Officials and Players are to enter the training field area. All other persons are to remain behind the perimeter fence for Insurance purposes and the Child Protection Act.
- Players are to be of neat and tidy appearance at all times. No jewellery is to be worn during training sessions or games. Earrings and studs must be removed during training and games.
- Players must wear appropriate clothing as directed by the club when going to and from games;
- Players are attend gala days, club functions and promotions as directed by the club from time to time and will participate in such events as a registered member of the Club.

### Players Equipment

- Players are responsible for ensuring that all necessary equipment is brought to training and games including bag, boots, ball, tape, strapping, shin pads, drinks and clean towel.
- During rain periods, players are to bring wet weather gear and a change of clothes;
- Players will be provided with Club tracksuit, Club playing shirt, shorts and socks, ball, bottle and bag. This equipment is **YOUR** responsibility to be brought to all games. Should the equipment be lost or damaged, it is your responsibility to replace them to ensure each player in the team is appropriately attired. Failure to have the correct equipment will result from the player being excluded from playing in future games until the equipment is replaced.

### Games Days

- Players are to be at the ground 1 - hour prior to kick off. Players are to wait in a suitable area as a whole team until the Coach or Manager arrives. Failure to arrive on time to games may result in the player not being included on the team sheet, hence not playing.
- Selection of team each week will be based on training/game performance, opposition strength, weaknesses and Coaches tactic for the game.
- Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any way.
- Players from younger age groups may be required to stay for the following match. Although there is no guarantee the player will take the field, we do encourage your support.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. After matches we show sportsmanship to each other and our opposition.
- Coaches and Managers will be advised of changes to scheduled games, they will in turn contact their players. Unless contacted you are to proceed to the place and time of the scheduled game.





- Players shall try to attend all Senior home games at the United Sports Centre.

## PARENTS/SUPPORTERS CODE

Parents/Supporters will at all times have good manners and be courteous to others whether at training or at games. Parents/Supporters are asked to be positive and encourage their team, and other teams within the Club, and focus on player's efforts and performance. All players, and Coaches, make mistakes and unnecessary criticism from the sidelines will result in a loss of confidence by the players. Respect official's decisions. Your support of all teams is very important, however, any negative comments directed towards our team, the opposition or match officials are not welcome and will not be tolerated. Encourage the team collectively and applaud good play from all sides.

Football NSW has banned the bringing and drinking of alcohol at any and all grounds where sanctioned games are to be played. Most local council grounds are alcohol "free zones". Parents are requested to abide by the above bye-laws when representing the Sydney United Football Club. Sydney United Football Club is **not** a child minding facility, hence parents are to remain at the field during training or provide a contact number with officials at the canteen should an accident occur or if training duration is reduced for whatever reason. Parents are also to be on time to collect their child at completion of training.

Parents are to advise the Coach and Manager of any medical condition their child may have, such as asthma or previous injury, to ensure appropriate attention during training or at games. Parents are expected to take an active part in our Club by either attending Seniors team home games, Club functions, assisting in fundraising, assisting at game days on the BBQ and canteen, etc.

- Be a positive role model. Be a good sport because players copy their parents;
- Give our players encouragement and positive reinforcement regardless of the game situation or score;
- Players have their reasons for playing (fun and possible career). Do not thrust your goals and expectations onto them;
- Foster our players self image. Encourage them to give their best and make them feel winners for doing so regardless of game results;
- Mistakes are part of learning. Enable our players to realise this in themselves and others. Encourage them to try things without fear of failure;
- When playing, players should be allowed to concentrate on their game. Barracking for your team and son is acceptable, however, over zealous barracking involving screaming at referees, players, Coaches and Managers are negative distractions that will not be tolerated;
- Let the Coach coach! Parents are **not** to approach the Coach or Manager regarding issues associated with the teams make up or training techniques. Any issues parents have with Coaches or Managers are to be brought to the attention of the Committee who will endeavour to resolve the situation in an amicable manner;





- Avoid negative discussion about any player, Coach or Manager with parents or in the presence of your son or other team players as this may cause disharmony. Bring any issues to the Committee;
- Remember football is just a game. In the correct environment it can develop characters in players;
- **COACHING FROM SIDELINES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** This is the Coaches job!

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The Sydney United Football Club has a Penalties and Disciplinary Committee (P & D) who will be responsible in investigating incidents and issuing penalties, as appropriate, based on the findings. The Committee is to be approached in the first instance by parents, players, coaches and managers to resolve any complaints or issues that may arise within the Club. Failing a satisfactory resolution by the Committee, or if a complaint relates to a Committee member, complaints will then be forwarded to the P & D for resolution. All complaints or issues requiring resolution are to be made in writing and with 7 days of the alleged incident/s.

Please note that the P & D is there to resolve matters relating to the Breach of the Club's "Code of Conduct", it is not there to resolve minor club administrative matters, which are the responsibility of the Committee. **No parent, coach, manager or committee member is to take matters into their own hands, which relates to breaches of the Club's Code of Conduct.**

Any incident reported to the Club P & D will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

- Any player, spectator, parent or official found guilty of serious offence of any kind relating to football (bad language, abuse of match officials/players or other persons, physical abuse) will be severely dealt with and risk expulsion from the Sydney United Football Club;
- Players, Coaches or Managers who are sent off for swearing or verbal abuse at a game will receive a further suspension by the Club depending on the severity of the situation – **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This will not be tolerated and, depending on the severity of situation, may result in the expulsion from Sydney United Football Club;
- Parents/Supporters who contravene the Code of Conduct relating to verbal abuse of match officials, including players, other spectators, their Coach or Manager, will be severely dealt with by the Club's P & D Committee and may result in the expulsion from the Sydney United Football Club
- The Sydney United Football Club, in any actions taken by FNSW against them, will not support parents, coaches and managers that contravene the FNSW rules and regulations. As a member Sydney United Football Club, you are able to appeal to the Full Board of Sydney United Football Club any decision reached and penalty imposed by the P & D Committee where you feel that you have been unfairly treated. The appeal must be in writing and submitted with 7 days of receiving the P & D decision.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT

We the undersigned confirm that we understand that the club has a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**, and acknowledge that, we have read and understood the Sydney United Football Club Code of Conduct and agree to abide and conduct ourselves within the Club's Code of Conduct, rules and regulations of FNSW or any governing body whilst registered with Sydney United Football Club. We further agree that we will not bring any prohibited items to any Sydney United games where ever they may be played.

Name of Registered Player (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Registered Player \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ (See Note Below)

Note: Please note that the signature of the parent/guardian signifies that they take the responsibility towards compliance with the Code of Conduct by all remaining members of their immediate family.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return the above Acknowledgement Sydney United Football Club office or at training nights prior to the commencement of the respective season. Failure to return the above acknowledgement by the commencement of the season will result in participation of the player in the competition being denied until the acknowledgement is returned.

