South Australian Amateur Soccer League Inc.

SAASL Code of Conduct

TO ALL CLUBS, PLAYERS, COACHES, CLUB & TEAM OFFICIALS & SPECTATORS

SAASL Code of Conduct Overview

The South Australian Amateur Soccer League (SAASL) is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants. We hold all players, coaches, officials, and spectators to high standards of behaviour, with a strict policy against actions that undermine the integrity of the game.

By adhering to these guidelines, we ensure a positive, competitive, and respectful environment for all involved in SAASL competitions.

Key Expectations

All affiliated Clubs, players, official and spectators must adhere to this Code of Conduct and ensure their members are aware of the expected behaviour. Violations of the Code, including but not limited to the following, will result in disciplinary action,

- Racial or religious remarks or comments
- Referee harassment
- Verbal or physical abuse
- Swearing or threats
- Intimidating actions or physical confrontations

Penalties for Violations

Disciplinary actions may include:

- Loss of premiership points
- Significant fines
- Suspension or de-registration of players or clubs
- Bans from participating in or attending SAASL events

The Role of Clubs

By affiliating with SAASL, Clubs accept responsibility for the conduct of their players, coaches, club and team officials, and spectators. Clubs must ensure that everyone involved is familiar with, and abides by, this Code of Conduct and the Club will be held accountable for any breach.

As a participant in the SAASL Competition, the Club will act with integrity and honesty in all their dealings with Players, Coaches, Club and Team Officials, Volunteers, Match Officials and SAASL Officials.

The Players, Club and Team Officials and Spectators

By participating in, or attending SAASL Competitions, all Players, Coaches, Club and Team Officials and Spectators accept this Code and agree to abide by the Policies, Rules and Regulations of the SAASL, recognising that the Club will also be wholly accountable for any breach.

Respecting the Spirit of the Game – when Banter crosses the line

For the purposes of this Policy, Banter involves good natured, humorous exchange of remarks, mutual participation and understanding by all parties. If the person on the receiving end of the banter is hurt, it is no longer banter but potentially abusive behaviour.

Banter should never cross the line into abuse or intimidation, and is not acceptable if it:

- violates any part of the SAASL Code of Conduct
- targets or intimidates players, officials, Match Officials or spectators
- targets a person in an abusive or derogatory manner intended to intimidate, distract or interfere with the performance of their role in order to gain an advantage,
- intentionally attempts to intimidate a person to react in a manner so they breach the SAASL Codes of Conduct, the Laws of the Game or the spirit of the game.

Any Club or person may be reported for by a Match Official or Assistant Referee, Club Referee, Club Marshall, Club Official or SAASL Official.

COMMITMENT TO THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

WE WILL:

- Abide by the Code of Conduct and encourage others to do the same.
- Abide by the rules and spirit of the game.
- Accept and respect the decisions of the Match Officials and encourage others to do the same.
- Act respectfully towards all Match Officials, Players and all Officials.
- Accept and abide by the instructions of Club Officials, Club Marshal and Ground Stewards at all times.
- Act respectfully towards the Players and Officials of my own and opposing Clubs.
- Be impartial, consistent, objective and courteous when performing my duties as a Club or Team Official.
- Conduct myself in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of my Club, SAASL and soccer in general.

- Ensure that the safety and welfare of the Match Officials, Players, and Spectators is a priority.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (internet, social media, print, radio) in respect to any Cub, Player, Match Official, Official, SAASL or soccer in general.
- Refrain from any form of verbal or physical abuse towards anyone.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person, regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, cultural background or ethnic origin.
- Not engage in, or condone others engaging in, discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form, including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, or the incitement of hatred or violence, or partake in indecent or racist chanting.
- Not throw missiles (including onto the field of play or at spectators) and not enter the field of play or its surrounds at any time without lawful authority.
- Support the principles of Fair Play and Fair Conduct and encourage others to do the same.
- **For Team Captains only —** we will wear the Captain's armband and we will lead by example and encourage others to follow the principles of Fair Play and Fair Conduct.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

We must abide by this Code of Conduct and that a breach of this Code may incur any of the following requirements/sanctions:

- A requirement to apologise to the person or people we have offended.
- A requirement to attend a meeting with Club Officials.
- Counselling, suspension or dismissal by my Club.
- A formal warning from my Club.
- A fine from my Club.
- Sanctions imposed by SAASL on the Club and person or people in breach.
- Charged to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules, and subject to sanctions as determined.

WE WILL NOT:

- Allow an unregistered, suspended and/or ineligible player to take part in any SAASL match, and understand that players will be sanctioned and Clubs will have points deducted.
- Register or play with more than one Club in SAASL, in breach of the Player registration requirements, and understand that players will be sanctioned, and Clubs will have points deducted.
- Register and play at the same time in SAASL and in another association, (unless we have de-registered and re-registered correctly), and understand that players will be sanctioned and Clubs will have points deducted.
- Engage in Banter that crosses the line.

It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that all Players, Coaches, Team Officials and Spectators receive and comply with this Code of Conduct.