

West Coast Cobras SC Code of Conduct

West Coast Cobras SC is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants, including players, parents, spectators, coaches, and managers. This Code of Conduct outlines behavioral expectations to ensure the wellbeing of all members and the continued success of our club.

1. General Principles

All members of the club are expected to:

- Treat all participants with respect and dignity, regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.
 - Promote fair play, teamwork, and sportsmanship in all club activities.
 - Contribute to a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment that is free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination.
 - Understand that the wellbeing, safety, and development of players take precedence over winning or the reputation of the club.
 - Adhere to the club's rules, policies, and procedures and cooperate fully with any investigations or inquiries into breaches of this Code.
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2. Code of Conduct for Coaches & Managers

Coaches and managers are leaders within the club and play a critical role in fostering a positive and professional environment. They are required to:

2.1 Communication

- Communicate formally with players only during training sessions or match days and only on club-related matters.
- Refrain from unsolicited personal communication with players outside of official club activities.
- Use the Player Feedback Form for providing any critical feedback outside of match days; the club will determine how to communicate this information to players or parents.

2.2 Professional Relationships

- Build relationships with players and parents based on trust and mutual respect.
- Avoid personal relationships with players that could compromise the coach-player dynamic or the coach's responsibilities.
- Disclose any potential conflicts of interest, including personal relationships, to the Player Welfare Liaison.

2.3 Behavior & Safety

- Ensure all actions prioritize the safety, wellbeing, and moral development of players, particularly those under 18.
- Promote equal playing time for players in the 15SL and younger age groups, with a maximum of eight players per match card (where possible). Variations in playing time should only occur for valid reasons, such as attendance or player readiness.
- Serve as role models by maintaining high standards of behavior, language, and appearance.

- Never condone inappropriate behavior, including violations of game rules, harassment, or bullying.

2.4 Development & Feedback

- Encourage players to take responsibility for their behavior and performance.
- Provide constructive feedback in a respectful and private manner, ensuring it is focused on player development.
- Direct any discussions about player progression or team movement to the Player Development Officer (PDO). Coaches must not make promises about specific outcomes before first discussing with the PDO.

2.5 Reporting & Cooperation

- Report all concerns, misconduct, or welfare issues promptly to the Player Welfare Liaison.
- Cooperate fully with other specialists (e.g., referees, officials) to support player development and welfare.

3. Code of Conduct for Players

Players are ambassadors of the club and must:

- Strive to perform to the best of their ability and always play within the rules.
- Show respect to teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and other officials.
- Listen to and follow the instructions of their coach or manager during training and matches.
- Refrain from using rude, offensive, or abusive language on or off the court.
- Avoid engaging in bullying or harassment of any form, including online.
- Respect the dignity and rights of all individuals, regardless of differences.
- Be punctual and prepared for training sessions and matches.

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

If players fail to adhere to this Code, they may face disciplinary actions, including formal warnings, suspension from training or matches, or expulsion from the club.

4. Code of Conduct for Parents & Spectators

Parents and spectators are integral to a positive environment and are expected to:

- Encourage players positively, focusing on effort, improvement, and enjoyment rather than outcomes.
- Refrain from criticizing or ridiculing players for mistakes or losses.
- Demonstrate respect for referees, coaches, and other officials by not questioning their decisions or engaging in inappropriate behavior.
- Avoid the use of foul, offensive, or abusive language at matches or club events.
- Support the club's efforts to foster inclusion and good sportsmanship.
- Appreciate the contributions of volunteers, coaches, and officials who work to support the players and the club.

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

Failure to adhere to this Code may result in formal warnings, suspension from matches, or, in extreme cases, cancellation of the registration of the associated player.

5. Anti-Bullying & Harassment Commitment

West Coast Cobras SC maintains a **zero-tolerance policy** toward bullying and harassment:

- **Bullying** includes behaviors such as verbal abuse, physical intimidation, social exclusion, spreading rumors, or cyberbullying.
- **Harassment** includes any unwelcome behavior that offends, intimidates, or humiliates another person, including verbal, physical, or sexual misconduct.

All club members are encouraged to report incidents of bullying or harassment to the Player Welfare Liaison. The club will handle all complaints confidentially and take appropriate action to protect the wellbeing of members.

6. Reporting Misconduct

Members are required to report any misconduct or violations of this Code, including:

- Bullying or harassment of any form.
- Inappropriate behavior by players, coaches, managers, parents, or spectators.
- Breaches of club rules or policies.

Reports should be made to the Player Welfare Liaison or escalated to the club president if necessary by emailing westcoastcobras.au@gmail.com.

7. Acknowledgment

By participating with West Coast Cobras SC, all players, parents, spectators, coaches, and managers agree to uphold this Code of Conduct.

Thank you for helping us create a respectful, inclusive, and professional environment at West Coast Cobras SC.
