

NORTHERN STARS

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT 2026

Purpose

This Code of Conduct defines the expectations, responsibilities, and standards for all coaches representing the Northern Stars Junior Football Club. It aims to foster a safe, respectful, inclusive, and development-centered environment for all junior players, especially within the Under 9s and Under 10s divisions.

All coaches are expected to prioritize the interests of the players, the club, and the wider football community at all times.

Coach Responsibilities

As a coach, you are required to:

Player Welfare & Safety

- Prioritize the safety, wellbeing, and enjoyment of every child above winning.
- Create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all players.
- Ensure that all activities, training sessions, and match-day coaching are age-appropriate.
- Encourage confidence, participation, and skill development.
- Never place a child at unreasonable physical or emotional risk.

Respect & Behaviour

- Treat all players fairly, equally, and with respect, regardless of their skill level.
- Show respect towards parents, umpires, officials, volunteers, opposition teams, and club committee members.
- Lead by example through positive behavior, professionalism, and sportsmanship.
- Use appropriate language and behavior at all times.
- Avoid engaging in bullying, intimidation, discrimination, harassment, or abusive conduct.

Junior Football Expectations (Under 9s , Under 10s & Under 12s)

- Focus on continued skill development, teamwork, confidence, and enjoyment in a positive football environment.
- Encourage equal participation and provide all players with meaningful game opportunities wherever possible.
- Support player development through rotation across multiple positions to build overall game understanding.
- Promote respect for teammates, opponents, umpires, coaches, and volunteers at all times.
- Reinforce positive attitudes, sportsmanship, resilience, and team-first behaviors both on and off the field.
- Adhere to AFL Barwon junior football rules, participation guidelines, and development-focused coaching principles.
- Prioritize player wellbeing, safety, inclusion, and long-term development ahead of winning outcomes.
- Ensure every child feels supported, encouraged, valued, and included regardless of skill level or experience.

Club Policies & Compliance

- Follow all AFL Barwon junior football rules, policies, and regulations.
- Adhere to all club policies regarding child safety, member protection, and behavior.
- Maintain appropriate communication with parents and guardians.
- Collaborate effectively with the committee and football department.
- Support club procedures related to player registration, fees, and eligibility.

Fees & Player Eligibility

Coaches must support and uphold club procedures concerning junior football fees, registrations, fundraising obligations, and player eligibility.

Players with outstanding fees or unresolved registration issues may face club review regarding their participation, in line with club policy.

Coaches must not make private arrangements or grant exceptions outside the approved club processes without committee consent.

Breach of Conduct

Any violation of this Code of Conduct may result in a review by the club committee and may lead to:

- A formal warning
- Temporary suspension
- Removal from coaching duties
- Additional actions as determined by the club committee

Serious breaches involving child safety, misconduct, abuse, or repeated behavioral issues may result in immediate action.

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1. Acknowledgment

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with the Coaches Code of Conduct for U9 , U10 , U12 & U14 Junior Football, as aligned with AFL Barwon Community Football policies and requirements.

I recognize that adherence to this Code of Conduct is a condition of my appointment as a coach, and I am required to comply with it at all times while fulfilling my coaching duties for the Club.

I acknowledge my duty of care to all players and commit to acting in accordance with applicable child safety laws, AFL Barwon policies, and Club procedures. I agree to uphold appropriate standards of behavior, professionalism, safety, and respect consistently.

I understand that any violation of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which could include a review, suspension, or termination of my coaching appointment, in accordance with Club and/or AFL Barwon processes.

I acknowledge my responsibility to seek clarification from the Club if I am uncertain about any aspect of this Code of Conduct or my obligations under it.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct:

- **Coach** refers to any individual appointed, engaged, or volunteering to perform coaching or assistant coaching duties for the Club.
- **Club** denotes the football club to which this Code of Conduct applies, including its committee, officials, and authorized representatives.
- **Participant / Player** means any child registered or participating in the Club's U9 or U10 football programs.
- **AFL Barwon** signifies the AFL Barwon governing body and all associated policies, rules, and requirements.
- **Coaching Duties** encompass all activities related to coaching, including training sessions, match days, supervision, and team management responsibilities.

3. Declaration

I confirm my commitment to comply with the requirements of this Code of Conduct at all times while performing coaching duties for the Club.

I understand that this Code of Conduct is integral to my responsibilities as a coach and may be referenced in any review or disciplinary process.

4. Coach Details

Full Name:

Team / Age Group:

Club:

Signature:

Date:

___ / ___ / _____