

AVONDALE HEIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Information Kit 2011



This document is an abridged version of the Junior Club Policy. For information pertaining to additional selection guidelines, team operation, awards and parental involvement, contact the relevant team manager for a copy of the policy.

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1. CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

To teach, motivate, encourage and advise young players discipline, fitness and sportsmanship in the environment of a football team.

Develop children's skills and coordination in a friendly atmosphere, and to promote self confidence.

Provide an environment for players to socialise and communicate, giving the players a sense of self-esteem, independence and the ability to confront challenges.

Strive to be a friendly, family orientated club.

Create an environment that treats its players, officials and umpires with dignity and respect.

Develop and manage the Avondale Heights Football Club to ensure it is a well respected and successful club in the Essendon District Football League.

2. CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

The Avondale Heights Football Club has adopted a set of Codes to ensure that all players, coaches, parents and spectators behave and promote the best possible environment.

Codes of conduct are an important tool designed to enable people involved within a football club, whether as a player, coach, official or supporter, to understand behavioural expectations contributing to an enjoyable quality sporting environment.

All players, coaches and officials, parents, supporters and committee members have a responsibility at all times when representing the Avondale Heights Football Club to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner consistent with these values and those outlined in the following codes of conduct.

2.1 Coaches Code of Conduct

- Abide by the Laws and Rules of the Game, your Club and the League
- Teach the Rules-Rules are mutual agreements which nobody should break
- Group players competitively
- Avoid overplaying talented players
- Maximise fun - Place winning in perspective
- Stress safety always
- Consider maturity levels - Devise training programs to suit all
- Develop team respect for opponents, umpires and coaches
- Recognise the importance of proper injury treatment
- Keep up to date with coaching developments
- Attain coaching accreditation and update regularly
- Avoid derogatory language based on gender or race.

2.2 Officials Code of Conduct

- Remember you are representing your club / league and setting an example to your players / parents
- Try to resolve any conflict in a calm, sensible manner (when possible in private)
- Be aware of potential volatile situations at all times and be prepared to deal with them appropriately

2.3 Players Code of Conduct

- Play by the laws and rules
- Don't argue
- Control your temper
- Be a team player
- Be a good sport
- Treat all players fairly, and as you would like to be treated
- Cooperate with your coach, team mates, opponents and officials
- Play for fun and improvement
- Avoid ugly remarks based on race or gender
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants.

2.4 Parents and Supporters Code of Conduct

- Encourage participation but do not force them
- Teach that honest effort is the victory, not the winning
- Encourage to always play by the rules and accept the umpires decision at all times
- Never ridicule mistakes or yell at a child for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Remember, involvement is for their enjoyment, not yours
- Remember, they learn best by example. Applaud both teams.
- Recognise positively the recreational contribution of voluntary officials, coaches and administrators
- Never publicly disagree with officials. Raise issues privately
- Support all efforts to remove verbal, racial and physical abuse and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Support your club and league officials to foster high standards of behaviour.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issues through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public.
- Support and recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches.
- Remember that children play organised sport for FUN. They are not playing for the entertainment of the spectators nor are they miniature professionals.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Demonstrate the appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Do not instruct players during the game – Leave the coaching to the coach

2.5 Behaviour and Breaches of the Codes of Conduct

- Players are to represent the Avondale Heights Football Club in the most dignified manner. Player behaviour is of the utmost importance and asking player to sign a "Code of Conduct" form at the commencement of each season must be taken seriously by all players. These policies have been part of the club for a number of seasons and we must eliminate any breaches and guide players to concentrate on playing football. We promote discipline, enjoyment and mateship as we believe players will learn from this.
- Breaches to the Code of Conduct may result in the club imposing a suspension on the player. If the player is also reported by the umpire, the club suspension may also be added onto any league suspension.
- Any complaint relating to the Codes of Conduct of either Players or Parents shall be made to (Junior Football Coordinators).
- The complaint will be requested in writing.
- The Junior Football Coordinator will convene a panel of three representatives of the Avondale Heights Football Club to hear the complaint.
- After hearing the complaint the panel will inform all parties concerned of its outcome.
- Any penalty imposed is at the discretion of the panel. Penalties on players may include suspension from the Avondale Heights Football Club and / or any E.D.F.L. games in which the Avondale Heights Football Club participates.
- Repeated breaches may result in expulsion from the club.

3.0 AFL KIDS FIRST PROGRAM

Goals

- Providing clubs with ownership and responsibility for their members.
- Promoting parental understanding of their important role
- Highlight the many benefits of junior sport for children

Parents' Roles

- To support and applaud effort
- Promote virtues of healthy mind and body
- Display self control
- Be honest and fair
- Create a good atmosphere
- FANSHIP v SUPPORTERSHIP

Basic Principles

- Support for children is a vital part of their growing up and their self esteem
- Children like to win, but more importantly, they want to have fun
- Parents need to set the right example not just at home
- Parents should be proud of their children's effort

Sport-A solid base for later life

- Physical well being – fitness
- Rates of maturation
- Skill development
- Develop character, social skills and positive attitudes
- Discipline, application and achievement
- Enjoyment, fun and thrill of game
- Teaches sportsmanship, understanding of winning/ losing and respect for officials

Initiatives

- Information on registration forms
- Mandatory parent meeting at club level
- Parent code of conduct and policy for breach
- AFL Rule 5.5 amendment
- Distinguishable uniform for first year umpires
- 'Parent free' area around coaches box
- 'Silent Sunday' trial
- Zero tolerance to umpire abuse

Matchday

- Each Junior match must have a designated Kids First Coordinator
- Away team to select an official as point of contact for the coordinator
- Coordinator to inform away official of any spectator in breach of code of conduct
- Official to inform spectator of Kids First Program being conducted
- Hand out flyer to spectator
- If spectator fails to conform, club to enforce it's own procedures
e.g. spectator to face committee

Policy

- Kids First Coordinator, Club and League Officials will monitor code
- Citations issued for breach
 - Phase 1 – Educate Parent
 - Phase 2 – Parent/s to meet with committee
 - Phase 3 – Club membership removed. Club to request non attendance to all matches.

REMEMBER WE AREN'T PLAYING FOR SHEEP STATIONS

4. CLUB COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

Position	Name	Responsibility	Contact
President	Rocky Cuzzupi	Club Organization	0412 642 301
Secretary	Ray Micallef	Club Administration	0419 877 677
Senior Vice President	Ray Micallef	Club Organization	0419 877 677
Treasurer	Milton Harris	Financial Management	0402 309 071
Committee Member	Malcolm Douglas	General	
Committee Member	Carmel Fedele	General	
Committee Member	Sevil Cakmak	General	
Committee Member	Glen Graham	General	
Committee Member	Rocky Prochilo	General	
Web Site	Ray Micallef	Manage Web Site	0419 877 677
Junior Vice President	Glen Graham	Junior Football Development	0425 731 206
Junior Football Coordinator	Rocky Prochilo	Junior Football Development	0407 331 480
U/16's Coach	Peter Kalogirou	Junior Coach	
U/14's Coach	Frank Scardamaglia	Junior Coach	0411 801 016
U/12's Coach	John Giaquinta	Junior Coach	0433 267 514
U/10's Coach (White)	David Galea	Junior Coach	
U/10's Coach (Blue)	Tony Basilone	Junior Coach	

5. PLAYER SELECTION GUIDELINES

5.1 Following siblings

Note that the Avondale Heights Football Club does not currently have multiple sides at U10 and U12 levels but have still designed policy for future.

When a player is participating in U/10 or U/12 age group and has a sibling playing or father coaching in a higher division, that player shall follow the older player and will be placed in the same division as the older player or coach. The player does not have to play in a higher division if his parents decide otherwise.

Players in the U/14 and U/16 age groups are not placed in the same division as their siblings in U/10 and U/12 based on their relationship.

5.2 Squad Selections

Where there are more than one side in a division.

The coaches who have been appointed by the Avondale Heights Football Club board select squads for each team.

U10 and U12 teams

Squads for the U/10 and U/12 Divisions are to be divided with an emphasis on participation, enjoyment and development. Selection also considers the competitiveness of each team.

U14 and U16 teams

Where two sides operate in the same age group but in different divisions, coaches are empowered to select teams. This is based on the coaches' judgement and perception of the player's abilities, potential, development, attitude, commitment and the need for team balance.

Players may be moved into the other division from time to time, at the coaches' discretion.

The coaches of each division are to ensure that every player is selected in a team.

5.3 Team Selections

24 players are able to play each week (Under 10,12, 14 &16). If team lists extend past 24, some players will be required to be rostered off each week during the season. If possible, Coaches and Team Managers should give parents and players the opportunity to advise in advance, any times of unavailability to ensure these games missed are counted as games rostered off.

At U10 and U12 levels, it is preferable that all players will be rotated equitably but the age of players may affect rostering sequence.

At U14 and U16 levels, player rostering sequence will also place an emphasis on ability and future club development and representation (U18 and seniors)

Each team's individual rostering system is to be explained at the start of the season.

An accurate record of player selection is required, and dates when players were rostered off.

5.4 Match Day Policies

All U/10 players who turn 9 or 10 years of age in that year and all U/12 players shall play a minimum of three-quarters of each home and away game.

All U10 players who turn 8 years of age in that year shall play a minimum of one half of each home and away game.

All players in the U/14 and U/16 teams shall play a minimum of one half of each home and away game.

Any player deemed not financial by the Club Treasurer shall not be eligible to represent the Avondale Heights Football Club.

The Junior Football Coordinator or Junior President will determine any disputes, subject to the Junior Football Policies.

6.0 Player Football Uniform

- Each player will need to provide their own shorts and socks.
- For home games, navy blue shorts and socks are to be worn.
- For away games, white shorts are to be worn.
- Shorts must be the EDFL branded type. They are available for purchase from the club.
- All football jumpers provided are sleeve less. If players wish to wear a sleeved undergarment, the garment must be navy in colour.
- All players are to wear mouth guards (recommend that mouthguards are prepared and fitted by a qualified practitioner) whilst involved in training and/or matches

7.0 Club Registration Fees

Registration Fees for season 2011 are set by the football club with representation from the senior and junior committee. For season 2011, the club has included a "Merchandise Item" for every player, valued at \$30 as part of the registration package. The fee of **\$175** can be broken down in the following way.

\$15 of the fee is directed to Sporting Club. This money goes directly to the Avondale Heights Sporting Club as part of football club rental fee. This fee enables the families of junior players to attend the social rooms for the season under licensing regulations.

Parents are encouraged to join the Sporting Club as full members. (\$30). Together with the Avondale Heights Cricket Club, we are part of the Avondale Heights Sporting Club. The cost of Sporting Club membership contributes to the upkeep of the social rooms and facilities. It also enables parents to participate in the election of club office bearers.

\$45 will be used for new equipment, medical supplies, coaches and first aid courses.

\$80 will go towards EDFL team affiliation fees and other EDFL costs for our junior teams.

\$40 will go towards ground lighting, utility fees such as gas and electricity

\$30 merchandise item will be provided to all junior players.

The above costs equals **\$210** but the club has subsidized to cost to **\$175**.

The above costs exclude the cost of cleaning staff, canteen staff, public liability insurance, ground marking fees, club advertising costs, telephone and internet costs, website costs, junior trophies (after sponsorship) etc

All junior players are provided with a football jumper to be worn for the season.

Profit from canteen and bar from junior functions does not fully cover these costs and it is therefore important that all players/parents get behind the club to ensure its survival by supporting club functions. This support will assist in maintaining the price of our registration fees as low as possible.

The Avondale Heights Football Club acknowledges that we have a fantastic group of families that make up our club and that has ensured that our club has one of the best reputations in the EDFL.

8.0 Grievance Procedure

At times parents may have issues that concern them and/or their child. The committee of the club has addressed a number of areas that they believe are significant in the coaching and management of players. This has resulted in the production of policies and procedures associated with Team Selection, Player Rotation and Finals Selection. These policies have been made very public, in an attempt to educate parents and make them fully aware of how coaches are expected to act in regards to these areas.

In the event of a grievance being raised by parents in regards to these areas or other areas of concern, the following steps should be followed:

- Under normal circumstance, parents are encouraged to approach the coach to resolve the matter.
- At times the parent may approach the Junior Coordinator or Junior Vice President prior to approaching the coach or may not be satisfied that a resolution has been arrived at, even after the initial discussion with the coach.

- In this situation the Junior Coordinator or Junior Vice President will act on behalf of the committee and communicate directly with the coach to inform them of the concern that has been raised. It is then hoped that a resolution to the issue will occur, based on the clubs relevant policies and procedures. All matters raised must be passed on to the coach in fairness of right of reply.
- If no resolution is arrived at, the President of the Club will be required to mediate and give binding direction to the parties involved.

9.0 Contact us

The Avondale Heights Football Club are determined to ensure that being involved with our football club will be a positive and rewarding experience for all players and their families.

We will continue to provide an environment that promotes team sport in a positive and rewarding way. The Avondale Heights Football Club is a club that brings families together and assists in forging lasting friendships.

If you have any questions regarding your children or the contents of this document contact Junior Vice President.

For junior football issues, email [**junior.admin@ahfc.org.au**](mailto:junior.admin@ahfc.org.au)