



Morningson Junior Football Club Inc.

Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide all persons involved with the Morningson Junior Football Club appropriate guidelines to follow, which amply demonstrate a spirit of fair play, good sportsmanship and good citizenship, whilst participating in junior sport in particular, and the various other activities of the Club.

This document will also serve to publicize the policy of the Club regarding the expected conduct from its players, parents, officials and supporters.

It is hoped that parents will use this document to educate their children in respect to what is expected of them outside their home environment, and to promote good citizenship within our community.

Policy

The statement of purpose of the Morningson Junior Football Club shall be to encourage, promote and foster sport.

Consistent with the above, the policy of the Club shall be to encourage all persons involved with the Club to strive to attain high standards of achievement and personal behavior, which includes the following :-

1. Administrators - to set and achieve high standards in the carrying-out of their duties and responsibilities.
2. Coaches - to attain appropriate accreditation and experience levels for the task of developing individual and team skills in their players.
3. Players - to strive to develop personal skills and a sense of fair play in the enjoyment of their sport, and to involve team-mates.
4. Parents and Spectators - to encourage participation and sportsmanship whilst acknowledging the limitations of developing junior players.
5. Umpires - role is integral part of the game in the decision making and adjudicating process.

At all times it should be understood that sport should be enjoyed by the participants, and that spectators should provide positive encouragement to those participants and NOT negative or abusive comments to opponents, officials or umpires.

Consistent with the fostering of junior sport, the Club does not condone the use of performance-enhancing drugs, smoking by juniors at any time, or smoking by adults within the confines of the clubrooms, or the consumption of alcohol during junior games, training sessions or other junior activities.

In particular, parents and adult spectators should be seen as demonstrating role models for juniors to emulate.

Administrators

The role of Administrators in the implementation of this Code of Conduct cannot be over-emphasized. The reputation of the Club is seriously at risk if members of the Club from the Executive down, do not consistently exhibit good sportsmanship, good citizenship and high personal standards in all activities associated with the Club, including the following :-

1. Involve children in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to each activity.
2. Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, disability or ethnic origin.
3. Equipment and facilities must be SAFE and appropriate to the ability level of participating children.
4. Rules, equipment, and training schedules should take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating children.
5. Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials, capable of developing appropriate sports behavior and skill technique.
6. Remember that as children play for enjoyment, downplay the importance of rewards.
7. Focus on the needs of the participants rather than the enjoyment of the spectators.
8. Make sure that officials attend clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with the emphasis on appropriate sports behavior and skill technique.
9. Make sure that parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials and trainers as well as the participants, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sports.
10. Distribute the appropriate Code of Conduct pages to spectators, officials, parents, coaches and players.

Coaches & Officials

As the Coach has significantly more influence upon players than any other official or person connected with football, it is critical that they are properly trained in the most suitable coaching and communicating techniques for children.

All coaches placed in charge of junior footballers should have successfully completed an approved Coaches Accreditation Course, as laid down by the Affiliated League.

Team Officials should be aware of, and practice the following:-

1. Avoid over-playing the talented players, remember other players need and deserve equal time.
2. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of players.
3. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
4. Follow the advice of a qualified trainer when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
5. Keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
6. Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behavior as well as basic skills.
7. Help children understand the responsibilities and implications of their freedom to choose between fair and unfair styles of play.

8. Ensure that equal opportunities for the participation in sports are made available to all children regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, disability or ethnic origin.
9. Remember that children participate for the enjoyment, and play down the importance of rewards.
10. Condemn unsporting behavior and promote respect for all opponents.
11. Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
12. Ensure that your behavior is consistent with the principles of good sporting behavior.
13. Ensure that parents, trainers and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
14. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles, and the principles of growth and development of children.
15. Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
16. Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by NOT using foul language, harassing players, coaches, officials or umpires.
17. Compliment both teams on their efforts.

Parents & Spectators

A child's self-esteem is delicate and easily damaged, particularly by parents attempting to act out their own lives through the youngsters on the sports field. Participation in sports events must be something for the children to enjoy. They should not be saddled with a "win-at-all costs" attitude at an early age.

1. Encourage children to participate, if they are interested.
2. Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
3. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
4. Remember children learn best from example. Applaud good plays by all teams.
5. If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public.
6. Support all efforts to remove verbal, racial and physical abuse from sporting activities.
7. Recognize the value of volunteer coaches and officials.
8. Remember that children play organized sport for FUN. They are not playing for the entertainment of the spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
9. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
10. Encourage players to follow the rules and decisions by officials and umpires.
11. Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by NOT using foul language, harassing players, coaches, officials or umpires.
12. Compliment both teams on their efforts.
13. Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behavior is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
14. No alcohol is to be consumed at junior football games, training, or activities.

Players

In the final analysis, it is the players who ultimately display fair play and good sportsmanship. However, it is the way in which they approach the game that is the true demonstration of the values instilled into them by their parents, teachers and team officials.

1. Play by the Rules. Although this really goes without saying, it is important for the players to ensure that they really do understand all the rules of their sport, and that they abide not only with the rules but the spirit of the game.
2. Never argue with an official or umpire. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach and/or team manager during a break or after the game.
3. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent, and throwing equipment is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and for your team. Your team's performance will benefit, and so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, or the other team.
6. Treat all players as you would wish to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully, or take unfair advantage of another player.
7. Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no game.
8. Play for the "fun-of-it" and not just to please parents and coaches.
9. Avoid using derogatory or racial language.
10. If you disagree with an umpire, raise your questions with your coach or team manager, rather than questioning the official's or umpires judgment and honesty in public.

Umpires

Each team is required to provide Goal and Boundary Umpires.

1. Umpires should avail themselves of every opportunity and resource to fulfill their role to the highest possible standard.
2. Ensure that equipment and clothing meet the required standards, as laid down by the affiliated League.
3. Help the players to understand their responsibilities, and implications of their choice between fair and unfair play, according to their age group.
4. Condemn unsporting behavior, and promote respect for all opponents.
5. Be consistent, objective and courteous in your decision making.

Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by NOT using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.