



# Code of Conduct

One of South Toowoomba Hawks goals is to provide children with an opportunity to develop superior life skills through team play, sportsmanship, top competition, and hard work. An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our club. To better achieve this, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all South Toowoomba Hawks players, parents, and coaches.

These Codes of Conduct are a covenant between players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our core values and goals. It is essential they be honoured and followed.

The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles:

- (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude.
- (2) Setting a good example; and
- (3) Maintaining good relationships with all youth soccer participants - including officials, opponents, and our own team's players, parents, and coaches.

## **1. Demonstrating a Positive Attitude**

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behaviour contrary to the spirit of the game.

## **2. Setting a Good Example**

Each person associated with South Toowoomba Hawks is accountable for his/her own behaviour at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples. The Club will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents. We require thorough self-restraint from all participants - both players and adults. Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.

## **3. Maintaining Good Relationships**

**Officials** - The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the appropriate league or tournament officials about blatant officiating problems. In accordance with FQ laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection for the player, coach or parent. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters.

**Opponents** - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of



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soccer, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.

**Our Own Team** - In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coach's authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.

### Players Code of Fair Play

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with a referee or assistant referee.
- Control your temper! Verbal abuse of officials and sledging of other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent or team mate is not acceptable or permitted behaviour at this club.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport; applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage or another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### Policy for Parents

- Remember that your children are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your child to participate but don't force them.
- Focus on their effort and their performance not just winning or losing.
- Encourage them to play according to the rules and settle any disagreements without the situation getting nasty.
- Never yell at them for making a mistake or losing the game.
- Remember they learn by example; appreciate good performers and skilful play by all the players from both teams.
- Support all the efforts made to stop verbal or physical abuse from all soccer activities.
- Respect the referee's decision and teach your child to do the same.
- Respect the coach, team manager, person refereeing the match and the club volunteers, without them nobody will be playing.
- Respect all our players from all walks of life regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion or what soccer team they support.



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## Coaches Code of Conduct

- All our junior players are playing for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or shout at your team for making a mistake or not winning.
- Always operate within the rules and the spirit of the game and teach your players to do the same.
- Make sure that the training nights and match day time you spend with your team is a positive experience and remember all your players deserve equal attention and opportunities.
- All your players deserve fair playing and training time regardless of their ability.
- Make sure all equipment you use meets safety standards and are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of your players.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with soccer, this includes opposition teams, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage your players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution to injured players.
- Keep up with the latest coaching practises and the principles of growth and development of your young players, obtain and maintain your junior coaching license.
- Physical contact with any of your players must be appropriate to the situation.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural or religious background.
- Teach your team to play by the rules and applaud all good play whether made by your team or the opposition.
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach your players to do the same. Look after your kit and report any losses to the committee.
- Participate in skills programmes as and when they are introduced, encourage other coaches and make yourself available to advise if and when required.
- Look after your team and encourage rapport within the team. This will assist in the team staying together for many seasons.