

SFNL COACHES CHARTER OF BEHAVIOURS

1. Show leadership in facilitating a safe, positive, and inclusive environment/culture at their club for all participants and stakeholders

Key Elements:

- Work in accordance with the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct, available at afl.com.au
- Senior coach to dictate and set example in terms of **behaviour standards** expected at their club and accept accountability for appropriate behaviour by assistant coaches, Reserves Under 19s and Thirds coaches, other coaching staff, and players (including **use of appropriate language and no audible obscenities** when addressing players at all levels; visible displays of **respect** for umpires, officials and players from both teams; good sportsmanship etc.)
- Creating a **'family friendly'** environment at their club that players of all levels **and their families** would be happy to join
- Recognition of significant role their club plays in the **local community** and benefits to the community of clubs providing opportunity for young men to play sport in a safe, inclusive environment
- Maintaining good relations with coaching counterparts at opposition clubs (e.g. home coach introduce himself to opposition coach pre-match and appropriate 'spirit of the game' acknowledgement/communication after the game)

2. Actively facilitate inclusion of Under 19s teams into their club and the competition

Key Elements:

- Recognition of critical importance to the league of having an **on-going viable Under 19s competition** in context of enhancement of the League's profile and image, and its growth and success into the future
- Recognition of importance of **all SFNL clubs** fielding Under 19s teams in relation to **ensuring their future viability**
- Senior coach actively supporting/'buying in' to their clubs' **junior development** program and developing a supportive relationship/interacting with their club's Under 19s Coach and the coach of their associated junior club U/17 team, including providing opportunities for Under 19s players to train with senior squad
- Providing **opportunities for talented Under 19s players to play at senior level** subject to assessing appropriate timing having regard to likely impact on the rest of the Under 19s squad, the player's form, willingness to play, attitude, confidence and physical maturity, and obtaining parent permission if the player is under 18. The SFNL Coaches Association (SFNLCA) Steering Group considers that, as a general rule, talented first year Under 19s players deemed worthy of promotion to senior level should play in the Seniors, not the Reserves

3. Maintain a positive attitude towards the relationship between players, coaches and umpires

Key Elements:

- Critical that coaches appreciate necessity of actively encouraging participation of umpires in our league and the game in general
- Senior coaches expected to set example at their club by visibly demonstrating **respect** for, and **positive interaction** with umpires, and accept responsibility for ensuring **all** coaches/coaching staff/players at all levels of their club do the same
- In spirit of positive relationship building coaches should introduce themselves and support staff to field umpires pre-game. Senior coaches of home clubs encouraged to invite umpires into clubrooms for post-match drink, buy them first drink and have chat with them (coach or his nominee) with focus on positive communication

4. Respect and acknowledge the role played by club administrators and volunteers

Key Elements:

- In acknowledgement of the critical and essential contribution volunteers make at all local football clubs, suggested coaches recognise and thank volunteers at their club on a regular basis (possibly a different volunteer each week)

5. Work co-operatively with the SFNL to enable the strongest possible representative side to be available for Interleague matches

Key Elements:

- The Steering Group supports the view that SFNL should pick its best side from a squad of approximately 35-50 (at the discretion of selectors), subject to at least 1 player from every SFNL club being included in the squad
- All coaches expected to recognise the importance of representative football and the role it plays in promoting the league/enhancing its profile. In that light, the Steering Group strongly believes that **all** SFNL coaches should fully support the League by nominating their **best** players for the squad and encouraging their involvement

6. Provide constructive feedback to the SFNL and SFNLCA Steering Group

Key Elements:

- Coaches encouraged to provide **constructive** feedback to the league, via the Coaches Association in the first instance, in relation to rules and any suggested rule changes
- Coaches encouraged to participate and/or provide input to the Agenda for issues to be addressed by the Coaches Association/Steering Group

7. Seek and act on opportunities to develop the leadership skills of coaches and assistant coaches at all levels

Key Elements:

- Coaches are obligated to complete Level 1 Accreditation and encouraged to pursue Level 2 Accreditation under the AFL’s coaching development program.
- Coaches encouraged to contact their AFCA representatives with suggestions regarding ways to improve our game and the standard of coaching (SFNL alignment with Sandringham Zebras FC)
- Opportunity exists for SFNL coaches to receive mentoring through Sandringham FC – attend training/sit in on team selection/sit in coach’s box on match day etc.
- Coaches to contact SFNL CEO to express interest

Please print **Name, Club, Level** (Senior or Under 19s) and **Sign** off to acknowledge support of the SFNL Coaches Charter of Behaviours.

Coaches Name:

Club:

Level:

Signed: