



**FOOTBALL  
WEST**

# **Code of Conduct**

**Effective from November 2022**

[footballwest.com.au](http://footballwest.com.au)

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## Article 1 - Application and Scope

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1. This Code of Conduct aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of football in Western Australia by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders. In addition, it seeks to deter conduct that could impair public confidence in the safe, fair, honest and ethical conduct of Matches and Competitions or in the integrity and good character of Football and its participants.
2. This Code:
  - a) applies to the conduct and behaviour of Football West, Clubs and Club Associates;
  - b) applies to all forms of organised football under Football West's jurisdiction, including eleven-a-side football, modified football, futsal and beach football;
  - c) continues to apply to a Club Associate even after that Club Associate's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that Club Associate breached this Code while a current Club Associate; and
  - d) does not limit or restrict the application of FFA Statutes and, in particular, the National Disciplinary Regulations, Member Protection Policy or Anti-Doping Policy;
  - e) may be amended by Football West at any time, including during a season.
3. This Code of Conduct may be supplemented by additional codes of behaviour or ethics, provided that they are not inconsistent with the terms of this Code.

## Article 2 - Definitions & Interpretation

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### Definitions

In this Code, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions must be used:

**AFC** means Asian Football Confederation.

**Attribute** means race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin, gender, transgender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, pregnancy or intellectual or physical impairment or any other attribute specified under commonwealth or state legislation.

**Benefit** means money, gift, advantage, consideration or any other benefit or reward, whether in cash or kind.

**Club** means any club registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations from time to time. A reference to Club includes a club admitted by:

- a Competition Administrator to field a team in a Competition;
- a Club Associate Federation to field a representative team in a Competition; or
- FFA to field a team in a National League or a National Championships.

**Club Associate** means one or more of the following, whether individually or collectively:

- Club Office Bearer
- Club Official (including, but not limited to, a coach, Team manager, or anybody who is officially associated with the Club);
- Player;
- Member of a Club;
- Supporter of a Club;
- Club.

**Competition Rules** means the Competition Rules including the accompanying annexes currently in force as ratified by the Football West board of directors and published on the Football West website.

**Disrepute** means any conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation.

**FFA** means Football Federation Australia.

**FFA Statutes** means FFA's statutes as promulgated by FFA from time to time, including its constitution, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

**FIFA** means Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

**Football** means "Association Football" as recognised by FIFA from time to time. Football includes the games of football, soccer, indoor or 5-a-side football (futsal) and beach football.

**Laws** means the Laws of the Game, Football West Constitution, Competition Rules, Statutes and Regulations, By-Laws and Policies as applicable from time to time.

**Match** means any game of Football conducted by or under the control of Football West.

**Match Official** includes the following:

- Football West appointed referee
- Football West appointed assistant referee
- Football West appointed referee inspector
- Football West appointed Match Commissioner
- Any other person designated by Football West as a Match Official including a non-accredited referee chosen by a Club to preside over a Match in the absence of a Football West appointed referee

**Player** means any person who is, from time to time, registered with a Club or is selected as a member of a Representative Team. For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a Player during a Match includes a substitute and a substituted Player.

**Policy** means any policy currently in force as ratified by the Football West board of directors and published on the Football West website.

**Team** means any group of Players which represents the Club (whether formally or informally) in a Match or series of Matches, or with which the Club is connected in any way as determined by Football West.

**Tribunal** means the Tribunal established pursuant to the Disciplinary and Grievance By-Law which is empowered to hear charges of Misconduct and Grievances.

### Interpretation

In this Code, unless the context otherwise requires;

- headings are for convenience of reference only and do not affect interpretation;
- references to any gender include all genders;
- references to the singular apply to the plural and vice versa;
- references to a person include any other entity recognised by law and vice versa;
- where a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have a corresponding meaning;
- any reference to a paragraph number refers to a paragraph in the same article unless otherwise stated;
- any reference to a party to this document includes its successors and permitted assigns;
- any reference to any agreement or document includes that agreement or document as amended at any time;
- the use of the word includes or including is not to be taken as limiting the meaning of the words preceding it;
- the expression at any time includes reference to past, present and future time and the performance of any action from time to time;
- reference to a statute includes all regulations and amendments to that statute and any statute passed in substitution for that statute or incorporating any of its provisions to the extent that they are incorporated.
- all monetary amounts are inclusive of GST unless stated otherwise.
- any term defined in the Football West Constitution has the same meaning as set out in that document.

## Article 3 - Bringing the Game into Disrepute

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1. A Club Associate must not bring Football West or the game of football into Disrepute.
2. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 1, a Club Associate will be taken as having brought football into Disrepute if any of the following occurs:
  - a) discriminatory behaviour, including public disparagement of, discrimination against, or vilification of a person on account of an Attribute;
  - b) harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated where that reaction is reasonable in the circumstances;
  - c) offensive behaviour, including offensive, obscene, provocative or insulting

- gestures, language or chanting;
  - d) provocation or incitement of hatred or violence;
  - e) spectator or crowd violence;
  - f) intimidation of Match Officials, which may take the form of (but is not restricted to) derogatory or abusive words or gestures toward a Match Official or the use of violence or threats to pressure a Match Official to take or omit to take certain action regardless of where such action is taken;
  - g) forgery and falsification, including creation of a false document, forgery of a document or signature, the making of a false claim or providing inaccurate or false information on a prescribed form;
  - h) corruption, including offering a Benefit or an advantage to a Player or an Official in an attempt to incite him or her to violate FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes, FFA Statutes or the Laws;
  - i) abuse of position to obtain personal benefit;
  - j) commission or charge of a criminal offence; or
  - k) any other conduct, behaviour or statement that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football West or football generally.
3. A Club is deemed to have committed an offence under this article in circumstances in which its spectators have engaged in any of the conduct outlined in paragraph 2.
  4. Club Associates are entitled to have their privacy respected and this Code is not intended to apply to private activities engaged in by a Club Associate that are not in the public domain.

## **Article 4 - Liability for Supporter & Spectator Conduct**

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1. A Club is responsible, and liable, for the conduct and behaviour of its supporters, whether at home or away Matches.
2. This Code is supplemented by the Spectator Code of Behaviour. Each patron at a Match must comply with the Spectator Code of Behaviour. It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced.
3. A guest Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of supporters. Supporters occupying the guest sector of a venue are regarded as the guest Club's supporters, unless proven to the contrary.

## **Article 5 - Betting, Match-Fixing & Corruption**

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1. A Club Associate must not engage, directly or indirectly, in:
  - a) any bet, wager or other form of financial speculation where the relevant person stands to win or gain from the win, draw or loss of any Club competing in a

Match;

- b) the throwing or fixing of a Match; or
  - c) any conduct or behaviour intended to unfairly affect the result of a Match, including accepting or agreeing to accept any Benefit connected with or relating to the ability of a Club Associate to exercise control over or influence the outcome of a Match so as to bring about a result other than that which would be achieved in a fair contest between the competing teams.
2. A Club Associate must not:
- a) accept bribes through the offer, promise or acceptance of any Benefit in return for violating his duties; or
  - b) provide for a Benefit any information concerning a Club, its team's actual or likely composition or the form or injuries of Players or possible tactics (other than in connection with a bona fide media interview).
3. A Club Associate must immediately report to Football West any offer of a bribe or any attempt by a person in breach of this article.

## Article 6 - Disparaging Public Statements

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1. A Club Associate must not make any statement in public, including any contribution to television, radio, print media or electronic media that:
  - a) is disparaging or derogatory towards a Match Official, opposition team or any Club Associate;
  - b) is disparaging or critical of Football West, or any Football West disciplinary, policy or other decision, without reasonable basis or justification; or
  - c) comments on any matter the subject of a current hearing before the Disciplinary Tribunal or the Appeals Tribunal.
2. Where a statement made by a Club Associate which, in the absolute opinion of Football West, constitutes a breach of paragraph 1, the Club is subject to sanction under this Code, independent of any sanction Football West has chosen to impose against the Club Associate who made the statement.

## Article 7 - Responsibilities of Representative Players & Officials

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1. Representative Players and Officials are the public face of football in Western Australia and so their behaviour is subject to greater scrutiny. Accordingly, a Representative Player and an Official must:
  - a) at all times behave in a manner that promotes and upholds the highest standards of integrity, dignity and professionalism;
  - b) comply with any team protocol and procedures, including in relation to alcohol, curfews and inappropriate relationships; and

- c) not act in a manner contrary to the best interests of the team.
2. Football West may discipline its Representative Players or Officials in relation to behaviour that relates only to that Player's engagement by Football West, including:
  - a) unexplained absence from a Match or official training session or team meeting;
  - b) failure to wear designated clothing to a team promotion or activity;
  - c) conflicting sponsor brand visible during a team promotion or activity; and
  - d) behaviour that brings Football West into Disrepute, including inappropriate behaviour in public.
3. Football West may impose disciplinary sanctions on a Representative Player and an Official in accordance with Part V of the FFA Statutes subject to the following maximum sanctions:
  - a) the imposition of a fine;
  - b) suspension up to a maximum of 2 Matches; or
  - c) expulsion from the representative team.

## Article 8 - Notice & Disciplinary Sanctions

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1. Football West may enforce the terms of this Code and invoke sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have infringed this Code:
  - a) reasonable details of the alleged infringement;
  - b) notice of possible sanctions; and
  - c) the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.
2. The scope and implementation of disciplinary sanctions is specified in Part V of the FFA Statutes.
3. The imposition of a sanction is immediate or as otherwise notified by Football West.
4. If a Club Associate disputes the sanction or purported action taken under this Code, that party may challenge the decision in accordance with the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law.

## Article 9 - Enforcement

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1. This Code of Conduct comes into force on 1 November 2022 and any amendments made to the Code of Conduct come into effect immediately upon publication of such amendments by Football West.