



RATIONALE

The CM & GR leagues are committed to ensuring, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of the sporting and working environment for its staff, volunteers, contractors, members and patrons at its games.

PURPOSE

- Raise awareness for the need to create a better, more positive match day environment for football and netball umpires, where there are significant issues with recruitment and retention rates of umpires.
- Demonstrate to the community that umpires, players, coaches, fans, administrators and officials can work together for the good of the game to make the match day environment as inclusive and enjoyable as possible for all the participants and patrons.
- Provide a family friendly and quality sporting environment.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Encourage clubs and the community to be proactive in their implementation of the CM & GR leagues Code of Conduct.
 - a. During the season provide regular feedback to clubs on their accumulated scores in the behaviour components of the Club Excellence Award,
 - b. At the conclusion of the season publish, without identifying clubs to each other, these accumulated scores.
 - c. Nominees of the Board meet with clubs who do not meet our behavioural expectations.
2. In a football or netball match, if there is any abuse from spectators directed at the umpires, the Interchange Steward or in the case of netball the Court Supervisor should be notified, so the home club can take immediate steps to stop the abuse. If the abuse continues then a Code of Conduct must be issued.
3. In a netball game, where there is abuse from players or officials and there is potential for a Code of Conduct report the netball coach of the offending team should also be notified.
4. Provide all football umpires with training to develop consistency in implementing a graded system of sanctions for abuse and other poor behaviours, in a zero tolerance environment.
 - a. Undirected swearing, which is heard by few players and no spectators = acceptable,
 - b. Swearing, which is heard by spectators and a group of players = free kick,
 - c. Any abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an umpire = A 50 metre penalty or free kick (can be reportable – umpires discretion)
 - d. Any player behaviour which is abusive, insulting, threatening or acts in an obscene manner towards an umpire or disputes the decision of the umpire = a 50 metre penalty or free kick (can be reportable – umpires discretion)
 - e. Intermediate level abuse, including second 50m penalty or disputing the decision of a “Green Shirt” umpire = Yellow Card (can be reportable – umpires discretion)
 - f. High Level, including abusing “Green Shirt” umpire = Red Card (must be reported)
5. In any junior football or netball competition there is zero tolerance to any form of swearing and a free kick (football) / warning (netball) will be immediately imposed.

FOOTBALL CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Club Excellence Award is independent of a breach of the Code of Conduct; however the Club Excellence Award should reflect the Umpires' perceptions of players', administrators', coaches' and spectators' behaviours.

The scores for the three key behaviour criteria should reflect the tone of the game

- Behaviour of Players & Coaches toward Umpires
- Behaviour of Club Officials to umpires, players & coaches
- Behaviour of Spectators toward Umpires

CODE OF CONDUCT

A Code of Conduct report can be used when individuals or clubs breach these rules. (football or netball)

Where individual football players are breaching the Code of Conduct, the AFL Victoria Country Notice of Report or the Code of Conduct Notice of Report should be used.

Where unidentified spectators, club officials or netballers are abusive, a CM & GR leagues Code of Conduct Report should be issued against the offending club.