



**Meadow Park Soccer Club**  
**Welcome Kit**

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## Index

1. Index.....	2
2. Meadow Park Soccer Club History.....	3
3. Club Colours .....	4
4. Club Home Ground & Club Rooms .....	5
5. Club Structure & Teams .....	5
6. Small Sided Games (SSG Programs) .....	5
7. Sponsors .....	6
8. Communication .....	6
9. Key Dates & Social Functions .....	6
10. Club Position .....	7
11. Club Values .....	8
12. Objectives .....	9
13. Players Code of Conduct .....	9
14. Coaches Code of Conduct .....	11
15. Parents Code of Conduct .....	13
16. Spectators Code of Conduct .....	15
17. Administrators Code of Conduct .....	15

## 2. Meadow Park Soccer Club - History



The Meadow Park Soccer Club commenced its existence in 1975 when a group of local residents, whose children, amongst others in the area, wanted to play Soccer, this group got together and decided to start a club in the Gladstone Park area. At that time, quite a few of the local children were already playing for other Junior clubs outside the local area. It seemed a sensible idea to have a club in the immediate area to avoid all the travelling backwards and forwards to evening training sessions and to match days.

At the first meeting of the fledgling committee, of which the founding member is still with the club, and after much discussion the new club's name, Meadow Park Junior Soccer Club was decided upon. At this meeting, our beloved club was born and brown and gold were selected as the new club's colours. It was decided that the first team to be entered as Meadow Park Juniors.

The mid ninety's saw the club achieve many accolades. Meadow Park Soccer Club was successful on the park whereby some of the junior teams competing in the Victorian Super Leagues and boasting a very successful seniors and reserves team.

Currently, Meadow Park "The Eagles" Soccer Club, continues to serve the local community, with its voluntary commitment to provide a safe, enjoyable and healthy environment for the local community.

### **3. Club Colours**



The Founding members of Meadow Park originally nominated brown and gold due to the fact that no other club in metropolitan Melbourne had these colours and they believed at the time that these colours were unique to its image.

The mid 80's saw the introduction of new colours, when the club fielded its very first senior team. The then committee decided to change the club colours to royal blue and gold. The newly adopted colours became the renowned, and well known, branding of the club.

The turn of the millennium, specifically in 2006, saw another change to the club colours. The committee believed that the club needed to modernise its image and voted that the club colours be changed to its current, navy blue and gold.

### **4. Club Home Ground & Club Rooms.**

From our humble beginnings back in 1975 (no changing rooms, no toilets and a ground that was worthy for rearing cattle), we have grown into one of the most progressive and flourishing clubs in the North Western suburbs of Melbourne. We now boast clubrooms that are the envy of other clubs in the local area. Furthermore, after years of lobbying the Hume City Council, we have a newly erected spectator shelter (that caters for over 100 fans and members) and players dugouts. We currently have a very healthy relationship with the local council and have future projects in the pipeline to improve the club's facilities.

Our home base consists of:

- One (1) full size grass soccer pitch (with lighting)
- One (1) training pitch and junior match day pitch (with lighting)
- Clubrooms fully air-conditioned and heated – able to accommodate club functions with seating capacity of about 100 persons.
- One Home and one away change rooms, fully equipped with amenities
- Bar & Kitchen facilities
- 50 capacity (space) asphalted car park

## **5. Club Structure & Teams**

The club consists of a male and female team structure. Representation is inclusive of all age groups from sub-juniors, juniors to senior age groups. Due to strong demand for participation, multiple teams exist in age groups.



As soccer's popularity grows and the appeal of the Club, significant growth in participation has been recorded over several years. The total number of registered players remains steady with approximately 200 every year.

Team training nights are both Tuesday and Thursday nights. Training times are determined by age groups. Sub-junior teams train once a week on Thursday night from 5.30pm until 6.45pm. Juniors train on the allocated nights from 5.30pm until 7pm. Senior training allocation is from 7pm until 9pm on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Game day is normally on Saturdays for Reserves and Seniors, with all other teams playing games on Sunday's (younger age groups at earlier times and progressing to older age groups later in the day). Fixtures are determined by the Football Federation of Victoria, which can be accessed via club officials or on their website, [www.footballfedvic.com.au](http://www.footballfedvic.com.au)

## **6. Small Sided Games (SSG)**

The Club conducts a small sided games program every year in accordance with Football Federation Victoria's guidelines. The program normally runs for approximately 20 weeks commencing in April and concluding in September each year.

The program is aimed for the younger age group and those that may be embarking in the sport of soccer possibly for the first time. Both boys and girls are encouraged to participate. Both boys and girls from the age of 5 years are incorporated in our program.

## **7. Sponsors**

Without the help, generosity and support of Sponsors our ongoing success would not be able to continue. The Club welcomes new and values the support of existing sponsors in its day to day activities.

The Club has tailor made sponsorship packages and has the ability to create a package to suit all needs.

Packages include: Business card promotion, website inclusion, trophy, apparel, ground signage, team & merchandise packages etc.

For details are available from the Club Committee.

## **8. Communication**

Meadow Park Soccer club utilises a number of forms of communication to keep the Club up to date with activities and news through out the year. These include:

- Official Club Website: [www.meadowparkeaglessc.com](http://www.meadowparkeaglessc.com)
- Club's Facebook profile
- Mail outs
- Monthly Newsletter
- Flyers

## **9. Key Dates & Social Functions**

### **Pre-Season Training**

Seniors – normally start second week in January.

Juniors – normally start the week after school commencement (Term 1).

### **Competition Duration**

Seniors – April to September.

Juniors – Last week April/ First week May to September.

Small Sided Game – April to September.

## **Player Selection/Registration**

Squad selections by mid March.

## **Registration Day - normally first week in April.**

## **Activity / Social Calendar**

The Club activity calendar is produced at the beginning of each season. Regular updates can be found on the Club's website, Facebook page and Monthly Newsletters.

## **Activities include:**

Social Night's  
Fundraiser's  
Team Photo's  
End of year presentation / awards events

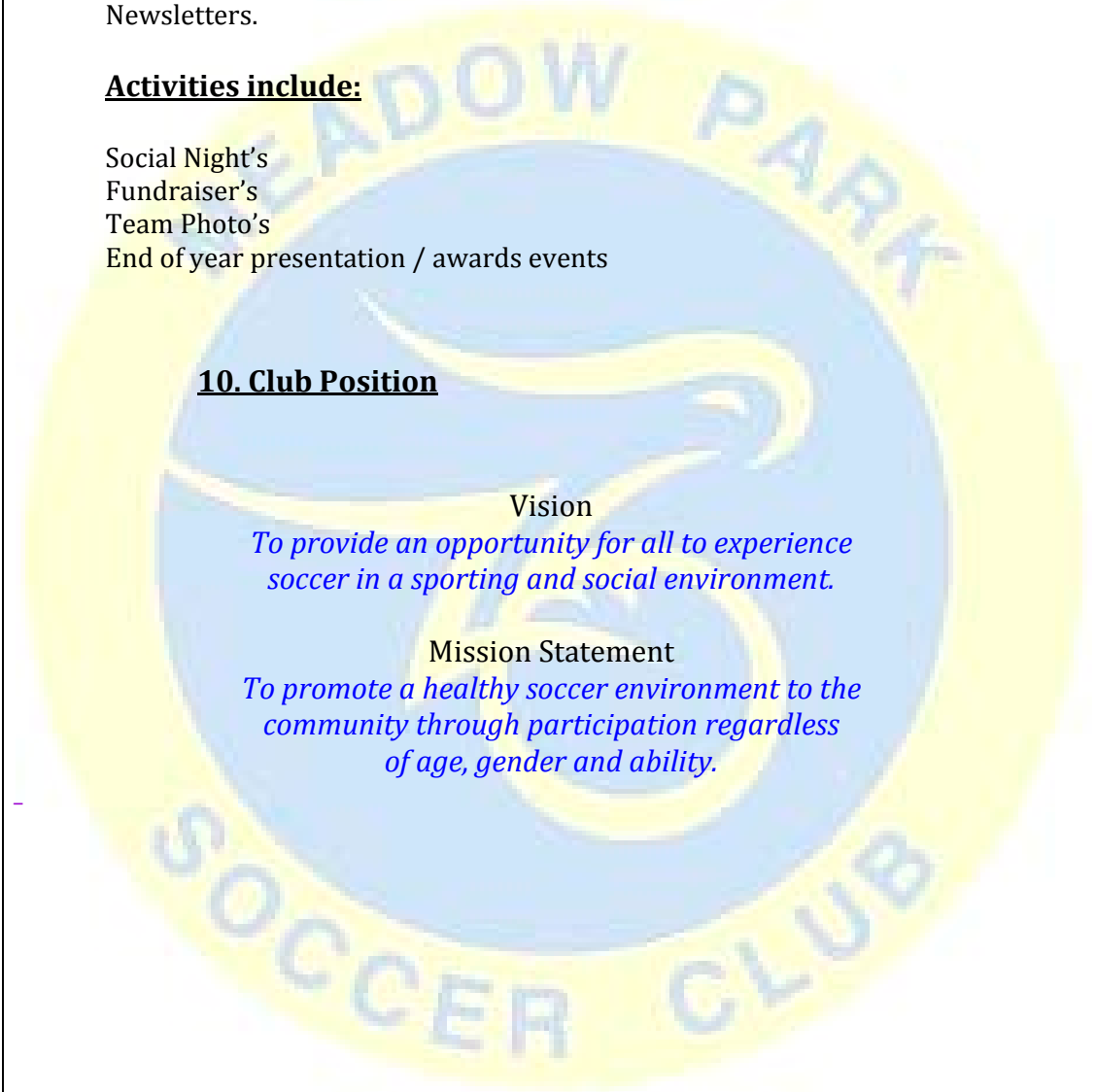
## **10. Club Position**

### **Vision**

*To provide an opportunity for all to experience soccer in a sporting and social environment.*

### **Mission Statement**

*To promote a healthy soccer environment to the community through participation regardless of age, gender and ability.*

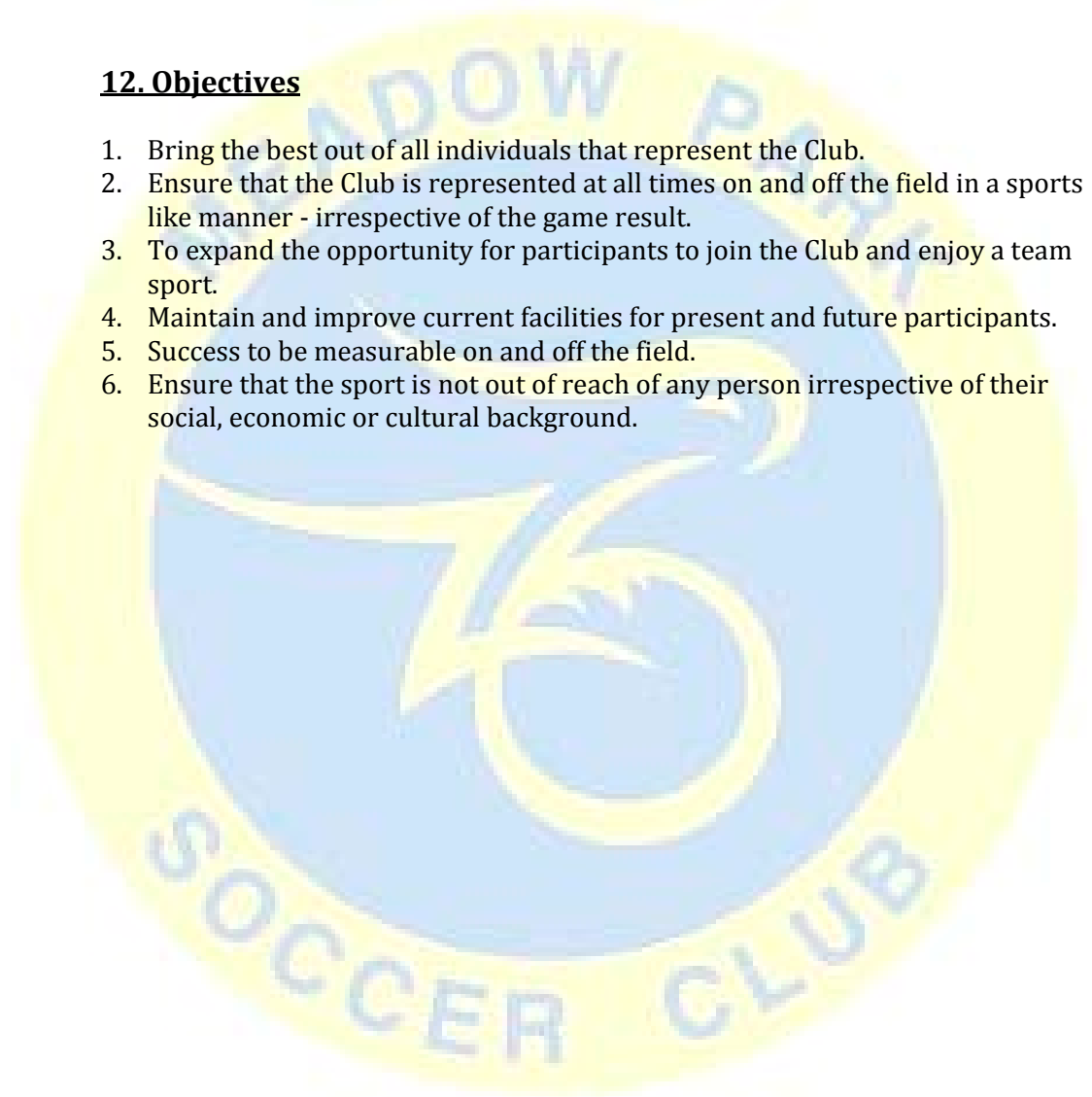


## **11. Club Values**

1. To be the best one can.
2. Sportsmanship.
3. Fairness, honesty, equality.
4. Enjoyment, respect.
5. Welcoming environment.
6. Family / Community.

## **12. Objectives**

1. Bring the best out of all individuals that represent the Club.
2. Ensure that the Club is represented at all times on and off the field in a sports like manner - irrespective of the game result.
3. To expand the opportunity for participants to join the Club and enjoy a team sport.
4. Maintain and improve current facilities for present and future participants.
5. Success to be measurable on and off the field.
6. Ensure that the sport is not out of reach of any person irrespective of their social, economic or cultural background.





### **13. Players Code of Conduct**

1. Play by the rules.
2. Don't argue with the match official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the match official during a break in play or after the match is concluded.
3. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
4. Maintain your focus & work hard for yourself & your team
5. Be a good sport & be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
7. Cooperate with your coach, teammates & opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
8. Play for your own enjoyment, and not just to please parents & coaches.
9. Remove all jewelry prior to training & match play, as it is a hazard to you & those around you.
10. Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.
11. Players are to represent the club in sports like manner at all times.
12. Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit so will you.
13. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability cultural background or religion.
14. Players are to attend all club organised training / matches, & in the event of inability to attend, are to contact a nominated club representative prior to such training / match taking place.
15. To support club functions when organised.
16. Neat attire to be worn on game day. To promote club only approved attire, especially on match days.
17. No smoking in change rooms.
18. Only players and club officials are permitted to enter club change rooms during club games.
19. Cleaning of boots to be completed at the back of the change rooms or at home.

20. No playing in shower area or toilet block.

21. All necessary sports gear (ie. shin guards, boots etc) is to be cleaned & presentable for match days.

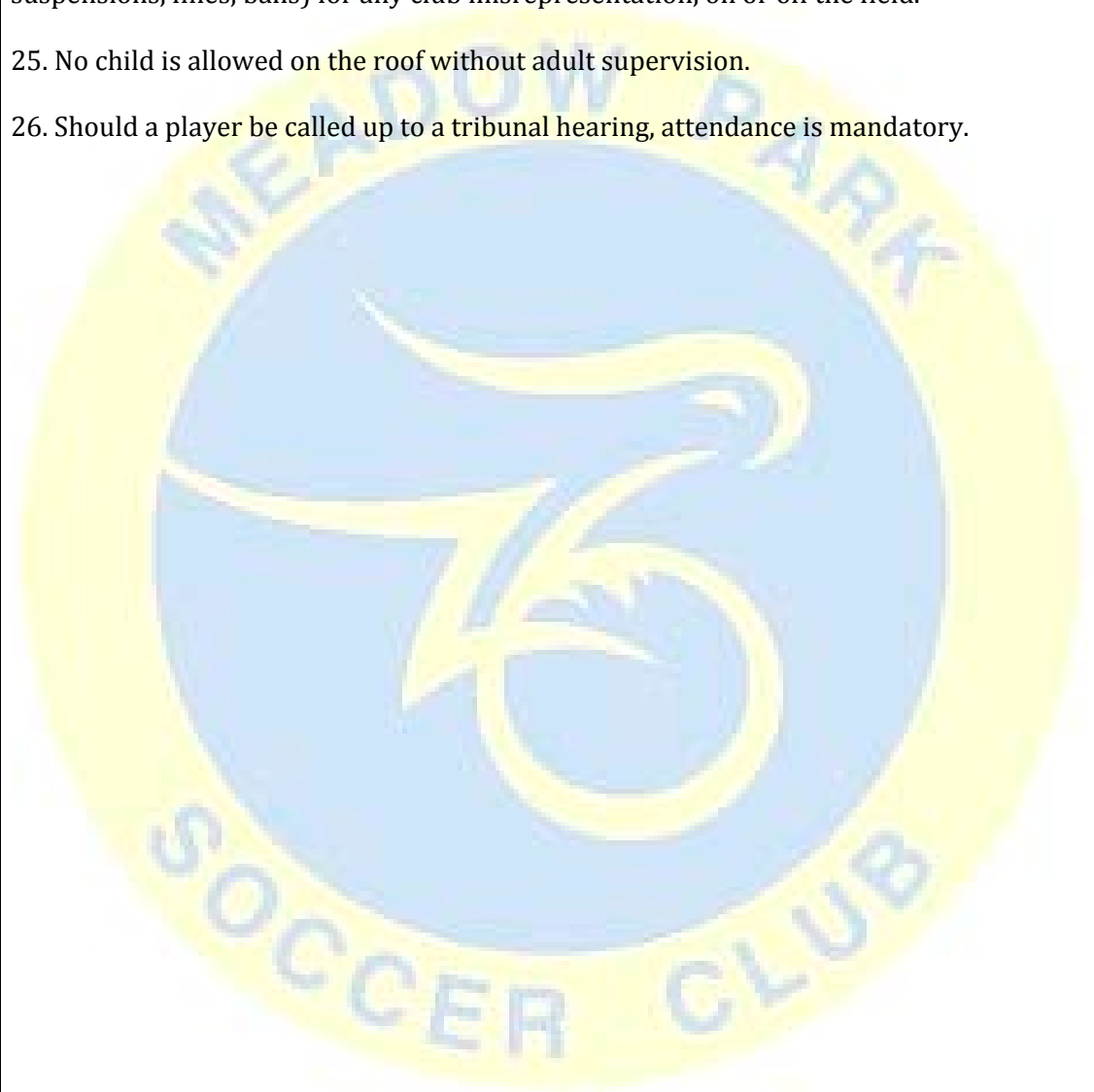
22. No boots to be worn in club rooms.

23. Sports gear to be brought in sports bag.

24. The club reserves the right to take appropriate action deemed necessary (including suspensions, fines, bans) for any club misrepresentation, on or off the field.


25. No child is allowed on the roof without adult supervision.

26. Should a player be called up to a tribunal hearing, attendance is mandatory.



## **14. Coaches Code of Conduct**

1. Remember that children participate for the fun of it and that winning is not everything.
2. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or being in a losing team.
3. Be reasonable in your demands on younger players time, energy and enthusiasm.
4. Teach your players to abide by the rules and laws of the game.
5. Whenever possible, change the group of players to ensure everyone has reasonable chance of success.
6. Avoid over playing the talented players as all players deserve equal time on the playing field.
7. Ensure that equipment & facilities meet reasonable safety standard & is appropriate to the age & ability of the players.
8. Modify your approach to suit the skill levels & needs of players.
9. Develop & enhance respect between players, opposition coaches & the decisions of the match official.
10. Follow the advice of a physician when determining the extent of a players injury & beyond that, when players are returning from injury to training & match play.
11. Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to coaching accreditation criteria) & the principals of growth & development in children.
12. Take time out to teach players (&others) the laws of the game, hence raising their awareness.
13. Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times.
14. Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (technical area) or sideline.
15. Remember the actions of yourself & your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them.
16. The club main aim is to develop & provide a high standard of soccer skills to all players.
17. Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
18. Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
19. Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
20. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

21. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them the club will not function.
  22. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
  23. Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
  24. Develop a good knowledge & understanding of soccer rules to players.
  25. Teach all players the good habits of sportsmanship at all times & shake the opposition hand at the conclusion of each match.
  26. All players are to be treated on equal basis.
  27. All players are to play in correct age groups, unless directed by the relative club officials.
  28. All Coaches must make an attempt to attend club functions & participate in all fundraising activities at the club.
  29. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
  30. Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
  31. If planning an end of season trip you must gain committee approval before planning gets under away.
  32. Coaches are required to comply with the Rules at all times, any miss conduct occurring will be handled by the club disciplinary panel.
  33. All coaches must have working with children licence.
  34. To promote club only approved attire, especially on match days.
  35. Liable for all fines incurred.
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- The logo for Meadow Park Soccer Club is a circular emblem. It features a central blue and yellow design that resembles a stylized soccer ball or a similar geometric pattern. The words "MEADOW PARK" are written in a light blue, sans-serif font along the top inner edge of the circle, and "SOCCER CLUB" is written along the bottom inner edge. The entire logo is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

## **15. Parents Code of Conduct**

Children's sport is supposed to be fun – for the children. Unfortunately many parents, fans & coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or non verbal, can have a lasting effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because adults unfairly take the fun away. Parents, fans & coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about - being fun for everyone.

### **PREAMBLE**

The essential elements of character building & ethics in sport are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship & six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring & citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character".

#### ***I therefore agree:***

- Remember that Children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on child's efforts & performances rather than result of the activity (winning or losing.)
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play, by both teams.
- Support all efforts to remove racial & religious vilification, verbal & physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect match official's decisions & teach your child to do like wise.
- Show respect & appreciation to club volunteers, including coaches, officials & administrators. .Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels.
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the team bench ( technical area) or sideline
- Respect the rights, dignity & worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or others.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games & training unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
- To be liable for all fines incurred and that of my child.
- I will not enter the field during a game.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules & guide lines I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by the Committee.
- Written warning by the Committee.
- Parent game suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file.
- Parental season suspension.



## **16. Spectators Code of Conduct**

- (a) Remember all children play football for their enjoyment, not just yours.
- (b) Applaud good play and performances from both teams, and be forward in congratulating all participants on their performance regardless of the final outcome.
- (c) Respect the match official's decisions on the day & teach children to do same.
- (d) Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake before, during or after the game, as this may deter that child from continuing in the sport.
- (e) Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- (f) Show respect to for both teams when watching matches, because without them there would be no game.
- (g) Encourage players to follow rules and accept the decision of the match official.
- (h) Do not intimidate, harass or use foul language towards, players, match officials, Club Officials or spectators.

## **17. Administrators Code of Conduct**

- (a) Involve young people in the planning, leadership, evaluation & decision making process in the club network.
- (b) Give children equal opportunities to participate.
- (c) Ensure the rules, equipment, length of games & training principles suit the age, ability & maturity level of participants.
- (d) Provide quality supervision & instruction for junior players.
- (e) Remember that children will only continue with football, provided they enjoy the experience, so do not over – emphasis awards.
- (f) Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating.
- (g) Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- (h) Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others.
- (i) Support the implementation of the national junior sport policy.
- (j) Make every effort to educate persons who breach these guidelines from time to time.