



MJFC: PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Our commitment

Take an Active Role in Your Child's Sport Participation

- Regularly check-in with your child to hear more about their experience in sport.
 - *Example: Encourage your child to speak to you about their sport experience, not just their performance.*
- Stay informed about the club's child safe policies and practices.
 - *Example: Ask our club volunteers for more information about our child safeguarding policies and practices.*
- Actively engage with your child's coach and the club committee about your expectations for the club and your child's participation.
 - *Example: Share with other club members and volunteers about the importance of valuing inclusion, safety and fun.*
- Engage your child in conversations about personal safety and emotional regulation.
 - *Example: Encourage your child to speak to you if they have concerns or are feeling unsafe.*
- Monitor and support any engagement they have with the club through online platforms.
 - *Example: Remind children that adults should never speak with them privately in online (or in person) spaces.*
- Listen and believe your child if they come to you with concerns.
 - *Example: Regardless of what they tell you, it's challenging for children to share unsafe experiences. Believe what they say, remind them they did the right thing in telling you and seek support for your next steps.*
- Consider becoming a volunteer in the club to support your child's participation (coach, team manager or match day helper).

Safety and Wellbeing of Children

- As a parent, prioritize the physical, emotional, and psychological safety of all participants.
 - *Example: Ensure that any actions you take or items you bring contribute to a safe environment for all children.*
- Recognise and respect the rights, identities, and dignity of every individual, regardless of age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality, or religion.

- *Example: Choose clothing and accessories that are respectful—avoid items with symbols or messages that could vilify others.*
- Be an active part of creating an inclusive community.
 - *Example: Take the extra step to challenge stereotypes and welcome people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.*
- Remain in the designated parent and spectator areas at all times.
 - *Example: Do not enter the gameplay or players-only zones during practices or matches so that the focus remains on the children and their performance.*
- If you have any concerns about the behaviors or practices within the club (volunteers, spectators, or other parents), communicate them clearly to the relevant people.
 - *Example: Identifying and sharing concerns helps the club address things early.*

Uphold the Integrity of Sport

- Respect the decisions of coaches and officials at all times.
 - *Example: Respect the coach's decision not to play your child or to sit out your child if they have an injury.*
- After games or practices, encourage enjoyment, effort, and participation rather than just outcomes or performance.
 - *Example: Celebrate improvements and contributions, such as teamwork and skill development, not just scoring goals.*
- Promote a harassment-free and discrimination-free environment.
 - *Example: Intervene if you witness bullying or exclusion in the sport club.*

Role Model Appropriate Behavior

- Always use respectful and supportive language when engaging with players, coaches, officials or other spectators.
 - *Example: Avoid using explicit or derogatory language, as your words set a standard for young athletes.*
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual playing or supporting sport.
 - *Example: Offer encouragement to all participants, regardless of gender, sexuality, age, ethnicity, or ability.*
- If you have a concern about the behaviour of anyone in the club, raise the concerns through the proper channels according to club policies.
 - *Example: Seek out the complaints officer within our club to support filing a concern rather than trying to manage it individually.*
- Provide constructive support and reassurance to your child and other players after matches and practices.
 - *Example: If your child makes a mistake in practice or a match, offer positive feedback and guidance rather than criticism.*
- Remember that children are looking to adults for guidance and role modelling on what appropriate behaviour in sport looks like.
 - *Example: Demonstrate positive, inclusive conduct so that children learn what behaviour is expected.*
- Recognise that the boundaries of the club, and the expected behaviours of members, extends beyond the pitch/field/playing environment and includes the online spaces used by members.

- *Example: Set a positive example for how to communicate via online platforms and encourage your child to use these spaces appropriately.*
- Support both sides in matches, encouraging and cheering for good game play.
 - *Example: Applaud excellent plays and teamwork from all players, and avoid jeering or booing the opposing team.*

Breach of Code of Conduct Procedures

If you breach this code, the Executive Committee (Club) will take the following steps:

Step 1: Educative response – you will be reminded of the expected behaviors and how your behaviors breached the code of conduct. You will be asked to review the policies and be directed towards relevant education as warranted.

Step 2: Written warning – A formal letter (warning) will be provided to the you, detailing the breach and any required corrective actions.

Step 3: Disciplinary action – The Club will explore the imposition of a suspension or termination under the rules of our club / league constitution or related policies.

Acknowledgment

I have read and understood this Parents Code of Conduct and commit to upholding these principles as a member of **MERENDA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____