



**CARE COURAGE PRIDE**

## **Coaches Mission Statement and Guidelines**

The primary objective of **ALL** Sandgate AFC Junior and Youth Coaches/Assistant Coaches is to maximise the enjoyment, development and in turn potential of the individual player within the structure and objectives of their team. It is paramount that this is achieved in a nurturing and positive environment that aims to provide the player and family with a positive social and football experience.

### **1. Winning games**

Winning “**AT ALL COSTS**”, is not the primary objective of the club. The club considers winning as a potential outcome that stems from the development of the individual within the structure and objectives of the team.

### **2. Spirit of the Game**

It is accepted the club aims to field competitive sides with players who display a healthy competitive spirit. This spirit is defined as trying ones best whilst displaying respect and tolerance for others, including but not limited to umpires, opposition players / officials and of course our own team mates / officials. All must abide by the AFL's Spirit of the Laws.

### **3. Coaches as Leaders**

Coaches as leaders are, above all, required to model the behaviour and attitudes outlined in point 2 (Spirit of the Game). All coaches are committed to the clubs **ZERO TOLERANCE** to all forms of Vilification, Discrimination, Violence and Abuse, both on and off the field.

### **4. Development of the Individual**

Taking into account the physical maturity, skill level and game sense of the player, coaches will aim to support players in the following areas:

- Development of skills;
- Development and knowledge of team play and tactics within the three phases of the game.
  - The three phases of the game are basically defined as:
    - We have the ball ; They have the ball ; The ball is in dispute;
- Increased knowledge of positional play;
- Nurture and develop decision making ability through game related training exercises.
- Foster personal development including leadership, self-esteem and social skills.

**Coaches are to commit to the Game Time and Rotation guidelines, as advised by AFLQ.**

### **5. Game Time Policy**

To assist players in their development coaches will give the opportunities for players to practice what they learn at training by ensuring players have a meaningful amount of game time. Every Player who attends training on a regular basis should be given the following minimum playing time:

- Under 8's to U10's mixed and U11 Girls: a minimum of 3 quarters every week where possible
- Under 11's and 12's boys, and U13's – U15's Girls: minimum three quarters or more averaged over a two-week period, dependant on numbers;
- Under 14's – 16's & U17's Girls: Minimum two quarters or more over the season (document rotations to support this)

***\* Coach's discretion will be applied in the case of injury, fatigue or poor attitude, and will be monitored by the Coaching Coordinator/Age Group Coordinator as required.***

***\*\* In the event of a team making finals with more than 22 players on the list the, coach will be required to inform ALL players and parents of his finals selection and game time policy at the earliest possible convenience.***

## **6. Rotation Policy**

The meaning of “**development**” may change in the context of positional rotation as player's progress through the age groups. In the junior years (U8 – 10 & U11 Girls) it is important the players experience the challenge of playing in as many positions as possible. Positions at these age groups are defined as Forwards, Centres and Backs, whilst for U11's, positions are defined as backline, half back line, mid field (including wings, centre, ruck, ruck rover and rover), half forward line and full forward line. This will introduce players to the different requirements of each position and assist coaches in matching the individual to the suitable positions in years to come

As players progress through the years (under 11 onwards) coaches will give greater consideration to the player's size, strength, skill level and game sense when rotating player's positions. This may result in players playing in fewer positions. In turn, however, this will enhance the opportunity for the coach to help the player develop their knowledge of positional play which is one of the five primary objectives in developing the individual.

## **7. Continued Development of Coaches**

All coaches are committed to the continued development of their coaching knowledge and methods. Coaches must complete a minimum Foundation Level (Junior/Youth) Online Coaching Accreditation, and must update their accreditation as per AFL's instructions.

The Club will assist coaches in paying for this. The Club will also provide regular opportunity's for coaches to participate in formal coaching seminars and clinics. It is important those coaches engage in these opportunities the Club provides for the betterment of the team and their own coaching experience. **ALL** Coaches are required to have a current Blue Card.

The Club also encourages all coaches/assistant coaches to think outside the square, at look at other avenues to gain further knowledge to assist them on their coaching journey.

## **8. Injury prevention and safety**

Sandgate Hawks AFC view player safety as paramount.

It is the responsibility of the coaching staff in conjunction with the appointed Ground Marshall either personally or via delegation to make sure that all grounds are checked before play for possible dangers (e.g. glass etc.);

- Players are wearing the appropriate protective equipment (e.g. Mouthguards and helmets);
- Players are monitored for signs of fatigue and rested where necessary;
- Appropriate medical attention is rendered as a priority should an injury occur;
- Children are not subjected to physical or verbal abuse from any player, parent or spectator.
- Concussion protocols and Return to Play from Concussion protocols are to be followed at all times

## **9. All intervention is to be positive intervention**

When instructing players, the use of **fear or humiliation** is not only inappropriate, it is unlikely to be effective. Coaches will always instruct and intervene in a positive and encouraging way.

It is the coach's responsibility to provide a solution for the player or work with a player to find a solution.