



**AMERICAN
FOOTBALL
AUSTRALIA**

Code of Conduct

American Football Australia Code of Conduct

American Football Australia (AFA) is committed to promoting a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all individuals involved in the sport of American football. The following Code of Conduct outlines the expected behaviour and standards of conduct for players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, and supporters within the AFA community. Participants in AFA sanctioned activities, competitions and events are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the below standards of behaviour.

Players

As a player affiliated with AFA, I commit to:

1. **Respect:** Treat all fellow players, coaches, officials, and opponents with respect, fairness, and sportsmanship.
2. **Safety:** Prioritise safety on and off the field, following the rules and guidelines of the sport to reduce the risk of injury.
3. **Fair Play:** Play the game with integrity, fairness, and honesty, adhering to the principles of fair play and ethical conduct.
4. **Discipline:** Abide by the decisions of officials and the state and national governing bodies, showing restraint and self-control in the face of adversity.
5. **Teamwork:** Work collaboratively with teammates, supporting their efforts and promoting camaraderie within the team.
6. **Compliance:** Adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies set forth by Gridiron Australia and its affiliated clubs and organisations.

Coaches

As a coach affiliated with AFA, I commit to:

1. **Development:** Prioritise the personal and athletic development of players, focusing on their well-being and growth as individuals.
2. **Fair Play:** Teach and instil the values of sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for the rules of the game and uphold The Football Code and The Flag Football Code as published in the relevant IFAF Rule Book.
3. **Safety:** Ensure the safety of players by providing appropriate instruction and adhering to safety guidelines.
4. **Inclusivity:** Create an inclusive and welcoming environment, promoting diversity and equality within the team.
5. **Leadership:** Lead by example, demonstrating ethical behaviour, integrity, and honesty.
6. **Education:** Continually seek opportunities for professional development and coaching education to improve coaching skills and knowledge.

Officials

As an official affiliated with AFA, I commit to:

1. **Impartiality:** Officiate games with impartiality, fairness, and consistency, without bias or favouritism.
2. **Knowledge:** Continually improve and update my knowledge of the rules and regulations of the sport.
3. **Respect:** Treat all participants, including players, coaches, and fellow officials, with respect and professionalism.
4. **Safety:** Prioritise the safety of all participants, ensuring a safe playing environment.
5. **Communication:** Maintain open and effective communication with players, coaches, and fellow officials.
6. **Accountability:** Be accountable for my decisions and actions on the field, acknowledging and learning from any mistakes.

Volunteers

As a volunteer affiliated with AFA, I commit to:

1. **Dedication:** Dedicate my time and efforts to the betterment of the sport and its community.
2. **Support:** Provide support and assistance to players, coaches, officials, and fellow volunteers.
3. **Inclusivity:** Foster inclusivity and respect for diversity within the Gridiron Australia community.
4. **Safety:** Contribute to a safe and welcoming environment for all participants.
5. **Integrity:** Uphold the values of honesty, transparency, and ethical conduct in all volunteer activities.
6. **Collaboration:** Work collaboratively with others to achieve common goals and objectives.

Parents / Supporters

As a parent/guardian or supporter of a participant affiliated with AFA, I commit to:

1. **Respect:** Show respect and sportsmanship towards all players, coaches, officials, and opponents.
2. **Positive Encouragement:** Encourage and support players in a positive and constructive manner, focusing on effort and improvement rather than solely on outcomes.
3. **Safety:** Prioritise the safety and well-being of players and participants.
4. **Responsible Conduct:** Always behave responsibly and respectfully, during any activities held by AFA and its affiliated clubs and organisations.

5. **Conflict Resolution:** Address conflicts or concerns through appropriate channels, following AFA's policies and procedures.
6. **Education:** Seek opportunities for education and understanding of the sport to better support the participants.

Reporting Breaches and Enforcement:

AFA and state bodies have the authority to enforce this Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Code of Conduct can be reported as follows:

1. **Reporting Breaches:** Any individual who witnesses or experiences a breach of this Code of Conduct should report it to the respective state body or directly to AFA for national level events. The relevant organisation will investigate the complaint, including gathering evidence and interviewing relevant parties if necessary.
2. **Enforcement:** Enforcement actions may include warnings, suspensions, or expulsion from American Football Australia and its affiliated clubs and organisations, depending on the severity of the violation and its impact on the sport and its reputation. AFA and state bodies have the authority to impose appropriate sanctions based on the investigation's findings.

You can submit any reports, complaints or alleged breaches of this Code of Conduct to info@americanfootball.org.au

American Football Australia is committed to upholding these standards of conduct and creating an environment where the principles of respect, sportsmanship, safety, and integrity are valued and promoted. All members of the AFA community are expected to adhere to this Code of Conduct to ensure the well-being and success of the sport and its participants. This policy should be read in conjunction with AFA's broader policies and regulations.

Document History

Date	Version	Details/Amendments
11/02/2025	1.0	AFA Code of Conduct released