

Crusaders AFC - Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all individuals associated with Crusaders AFC, including players, managers/coaches, and committee members. It is designed to ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment that promotes fairness, integrity, and the enjoyment of football for all participants. This document also reflects the modern expectations of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) in amateur sports.

All members of the club are responsible for adhering to this Code of Conduct. Any violations will be addressed promptly by the committee through appropriate disciplinary procedures, which may include warnings, suspension, or expulsion from the club, as outlined in the club's Constitution.

By agreeing to become a club member, you agree to follow this Code of Conduct and to promote the highest standards of behaviour and respect for all involved in the game.

1. Players

Players are the public face of the club and are expected to act in a manner that promotes the spirit of the game. Their actions on and off the pitch have a lasting impact on the reputation of Crusaders AFC.

1.1 Respect for Others

- Treat teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and supporters with respect, regardless of the result of the game.
- Avoid using inappropriate language or behaviour, especially toward referees and officials.
- Safeguard the physical well-being of opponents, avoiding violence or rough play, and assisting injured players where possible.

1.2 Fair Play and Integrity

- Strive to uphold the principles of fair play, avoiding gamesmanship and time-wasting.
- Accept victory and defeat with grace, showing humility in winning and respect in losing.
- Refrain from any form of cheating or attempting to mislead match officials.

1.3 Conduct Toward Officials

- Respect match officials at all times and accept their decisions without protest.
- Avoid any words or actions that might mislead or undermine match officials.

1.4 Public Behaviour and Representation

- Represent the club positively in public, including in social media and other forms of communication.
- Refrain from any action or statement that could incite supporters or bring the club into disrepute.
- Show respect for the facilities of your own club and any clubs you visit.

1.5 Diversity and Inclusion

- Embrace diversity within the team and the club, ensuring that all players feel welcome, included, and respected, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Challenge and reject any form of discriminatory language or behaviour, both on and off the field.

1.6 Contribution to the Club

- Plan and provide any annual subscription fee prior to completion of registration each season. The club operates on a “No Pay, No Play” basis.
- Provide any designated per-match fee before taking to the field to your manager, coach or designated contact.
- Contribute where and when possible to any initiatives held by the club in a volunteer capacity.

2. Managers/Coaches

Managers and coaches have a significant influence on the attitudes and behaviour of the players under their guidance. They must lead by example and promote a positive, inclusive, and fair sporting environment.

2.1 Player Welfare and Safety

- Prioritise the health, safety, and well-being (both physical and mental) of all players under your care above any other consideration.
- Ensure that players understand their responsibilities and what they can expect from you as a coach or manager.
- Never encourage or condone behaviour that could endanger the safety or well-being of any player, including the use of prohibited substances.

2.2 Respect and Fair Play

- Treat every individual with dignity, respect, and fairness, regardless of their ability, background, or identity.
- Promote diversity and inclusion within the team, ensuring that all players feel supported and valued.

- Encourage players to respect the rules of the game, the decisions of match officials, and the dignity of their opponents.

2.3 Integrity and Professionalism

- Lead by example, maintaining high standards of integrity and fair dealing both on and off the pitch.
- Never use or tolerate inappropriate language or abusive behaviour.
- Refrain from exerting undue influence on players for personal gain or reward.
- Promote teamwork, honest effort, and a positive approach to the game at all times.

2.4 Game Knowledge and Development

- Be knowledgeable of the rules of the game and the competitions in which your team participates.
- Guide players toward personal development, encouraging responsibility for their behaviour and performance.

2.5 Respect for Facilities and Opponents

- Demonstrate respect for the facilities of both your own club and any clubs you visit.
- Ensure that players and staff show proper respect toward match officials, opponents, and supporters.

2.6 Contribution to the Club

- Communicate and promote adherence to the Club's "No Pay, No Play" approach to player registration.
- Collect and account for the designated per-match player fee, returning any surplus to the Club after referee's expenses have been paid.
- Contribute where and when possible to any initiatives held by the club in a volunteer capacity.

3. Committee Members

Committee members play a crucial role in upholding the integrity of the club. Their actions directly impact the functioning of the club and its reputation in the wider community. The following guidelines must be adhered to by all committee members:

3.1 Integrity and Accountability

- Serve the interests of the club above personal or sectional interests.
- Ensure that all club finances are transparent and properly accounted for.

- Conduct club business (such as representational meeting attendance and participation, correspondence and any ambassadorial duties) in a professional and respectful manner.
- Adhere to standing orders and protocols for meetings, ensuring accurate and timely minutes are maintained.
- Foster an environment of trust, respect, and cooperation among all club members, volunteers, and supporters.
- Abide by and comply with the requirements of the governing bodies (W&DJL and others) as appropriate in all aspects of club administration.

3.2 Fairness and Respect

- Ensure that everyone involved in the club is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, regardless of their role or background.
- Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in all club activities and decisions, ensuring that all participants feel welcome and valued, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Actively discourage and challenge any form of discrimination, harassment, or inappropriate behaviour within the club.

3.3 Financial and Administrative Integrity

- Uphold the highest standards of financial and administrative propriety, ensuring that the club operates transparently and ethically.
- Take immediate action to address any instances of corruption or improper practices.
- Safeguard the confidentiality of sensitive information obtained in the course of club duties.

3.4 Media and Public Relations

- Avoid making public comments that could unfairly criticise or misrepresent other individuals or the club.
- Ensure that any public statements reflect positively on the club and the wider game.

3.5 Safety and Welfare

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all teams, supporters, and match officials who attend the club's grounds.
- Take responsibility for ensuring the proper behaviour of all supporters in attendance, fostering a positive and respectful atmosphere.

3.6 Contribution to the Club

- Communicate and promote the Club's "No Pay, No Play" approach to player registration.

- Contribute where and when possible to any initiatives held by the club in a volunteer capacity.

This Code of Conduct may be reviewed from time-time by the Crusaders AFC committee, and updated to ensure that it reflects the values of the club and any changes in the wider sporting or social context.