

## **GREYSTONES UTD AFC**

## **CODE OF ETHICS PROGRAMME**

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
COACHES - Update August 2025

## Coaches code of conduct

## As a coach / volunteer I will:

- show respect to everyone involved in the game (i.e. coaches, players, match officials and spectators)
- be an excellent role model and display exemplary behaviour at all times. only develop open, honest, professional and respectful relationships with children and young people
- promote the positive aspects of football and never condone rule-violations or the use of prohibited substances
- not equate success purely with results / winning, or equate losing with failure
- respect decisions made by match officials and never publicly criticise their decisions
- never enter the field of play without permission from the referee
- never use offensive, insulting, abusive or inappropriate language
- ► Treat all members of my squad equally and do my best to ensure that no member of the squad feels isolated. Everybody should feel like a valued member of the squad.

- Abide by the minimum playing guidelines.
  - ▶ U8 to U11 equal game time for all ensuring a minimum of 50% every game
  - ▶ U12 to U16 minimum of 25% game time which can be managed across a period. This must be agreed by the Head of Football
    - ► Attendance and application in training should be considered for match day starting line ups
  - ▶ U17 to Senior no minimum game time.
- always put the welfare of children and young people before winning or achieving goals
- work in an open environment and avoid spending time alone with children and young people away from others
- only partake in one-to-one coaching with a child or young person if it is absolutely necessary, part of the overall team training session and is done with the knowledge of the club and agreement with the child/young person and parent
- make them feel safe and ensure that coaching and volunteer ratios are appropriate to the needs of the group

- make football a fun experience
- communicate in a constructive, effective and age-appropriate manner
- be positive by giving constructive feedback, praising efforts and encouraging achievements
- ▶ Inform the Head Coach or Head of Football at the earliest opportunity of continuous challenging or poor behaviour by players. This should be in written form if the coach determines that despite initially corrections the poor behaviour is continuing.
- recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and young people, including those with a disability, avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing any child against their will
- carry out a risk assessment and ensure that the equipment and environment used for every club activity is safe
- keep a written record, and inform the club secretary and parent of the young person, of any injury that occurs, including details of any treatment given
- never engage in bullying behaviour
- challenge any form of bullying behaviour and report it to club Safeguarding
   Officer and parent of the young person
- avoid spending any time alone with children or young people away from others.

- I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by the club
  - ▶ Required to meet with the Club Safeguarding Officer and Chairperson if escalated
  - Suspended by the club from attending matches
  - ► Attend a safeguarding refresher course
  - Required to leave the club