Referees Code of Ethics and Conduct

Football Victoria
1. **INTRODUCTION**

This Code provides Football Victoria (FV) members and referees an indication of the standards of conduct and ethical behaviour expected of them. Any breaches of this Code should be reported to the FV Referees Department at "Referees@footballvictoria.com.au". Football Victoria will then consider appropriate action including but not limited to deregistration or suspension.

2. **ETHICS**

2.1. Perform your duties as a referee without bias and maintain the highest standards of integrity and honesty. These standards shall be maintained in associated off-field activities.

2.2. Treat everyone equally, regardless of their disability, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion, age and political or club affiliation.

2.3. Conduct yourself with dignity on and off the field. Do not act in a manner that brings yourself, your colleagues or FV into disrepute.

2.4. Do not gamble, or encourage any other person to gamble, on a football match with which you are associated.

2.5. Do not referee matches where you have a potential conflict of interest. Ensure you make conflicts of interest, including family relationships to players, apparent to your appointment officer.

2.6. Treat fellow referees with respect. Negative comments and criticism about or towards another referee or the FV Referees Department, verbal or written including on social media, is prohibited. Comments and criticism should be communicated to the FV Referees Department.

3. **CONDUCT STANDARDS**

3.1. Be honest, consistent, objective, impartial and courteous when applying the rules of the game. You must resist any possible influence from protests on the part of participants or spectators of the game.

3.2. Be physically and mentally fit to referee the match you are assigned at the required standard. This includes completing fitness testing requirements as directed by FV. Fitness test requirements can be found via the below link:


3.3. Maintain a smart appearance both on and off the field, including wearing the Mitre referee uniform in all FV appointments. Referee uniform guidelines can be found here


3.4. Your knowledge of the laws and rules of competition must be up-to-date and thoroughly understood, including any recent amendments.

3.5. Your responsibility is to your senior appointment of the day. Do not undertake other appointments earlier on the same day unless specifically arranged with your appointment officer. Be punctual and allow enough time to properly make your appointed fixture (arrive at least 45 minutes before the scheduled start of the game).

3.6. Report all on field and off-field misconduct. Set out the facts as you see them, within 24hrs of the conclusion of the match

3.7. Complete all administrative tasks, including the match record paperwork, within 24hrs of the conclusion of the match and to the standard required.

3.8. Ensure 14 days’ notice is given to the FV Referees Department and/or your appointments officer if you become unavailable for an appointment, in accordance with FV ‘Schedule Availability User Guidelines’, guidelines can be found here

3.9. Notify FV of your unavailability to referee any match in accordance with FV ‘call off’
guidelines. ‘Call Off’ guidelines can be found via the below link:

3.10. FV will appoint referees to matches on a week to week basis in its absolute sole
discretion.

4. DISCIPLINE

4.1. If you witness a fellow referee breaching this code, inform them of the breach - they
may be unaware. In serious circumstances, report the breach to the FV Referees
Department.

4.2. Referees breaching this code or being the subject of a complaint by a colleague or third
party, may be called upon to explain their actions. If proven, the member may be
subject to disciplinary action as decided by the FV Referees Department or the FV
Tribunal.

4.3. FV may enforce the terms of this Code and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the
party alleged to have infringed this Code:
(a) reasonable details of the alleged infringement;
(b) notice of possible sanctions; and
(c) the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.

4.4. The scope and implementation of disciplinary sanctions is as specified in the FV GDT By-
law & FFA Constitution

4.5. The imposition of a sanction is immediate or as otherwise notified by the party imposing
the sanction.

5. MEMBER PROTECTION

FV implements the FFA Member Protection Policy, please see below link for further details:

6. INTEGRITY PROCESS

FV is part of the FFA’s integrity process, if you see anything that compromises the integrity of
a match (e.g. match fixing), please see below link for further details: