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= QUEENSLAND CHAMPIONS

Champions are created through a combination of determination, ability and support.

As the major sponsor of AFL Queensland's Talented Player Program, Australia Post is committed to supporting the youth of this State.

Australia Post's sponsorship recognises and promotes sporting excellence and equal opportunity for young people throughout Queensland, particularly regional youth.

More than 15,000 players across eleven regions of Queensland have benefited from the Australia Post Talented Player Program.

This is testament to Australia Post's belief that promising players between the ages of 14 and 18 can benefit through the sponsorship, which celebrates skill, spirit and sportsmanship.

AUSTRALIA POST  
DEVELOPING OUR YOUTH  
DELIVERING OUR CHAMPIONS



# AFL Queensland

# Representative Football

# Codes of Conduct

for Representative Regional and State teams participating in  
Country, State and National Championships.



## Players Code of Conduct

The AFL has an expectation that all States have a strict Code of Conduct in place for players attending National Championships.

AFL Queensland also place high importance on discipline and general acceptable behaviour of all players, coaches and team support staff participating in intra and State championships.

AFL Queensland is implementing currently a zero tolerance policy in relation to the self discipline of all players participating in representative championships.

Zero tolerance basically means that players act within the spirit of the game and accept that the following guidelines are for the benefit of not only creating a better environment for personal development but presents the game in a manner that will encourage others to participate.

- Know and play by the Rules.
- Control your temper, verbal and physical abuse of any other players, officials, umpires and the general public will not be tolerated.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated, do not bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Accept any decisions made by umpires and respect the role that they play.
- Co-operate with your coaches support staff and team mates at all times.
- If taken from the ground for a rest, rotation or may be for an undisciplined act respond in a positive manner and quickly leave the ground through the interchange area when requested to by any team official or umpire and remain in the designated bench area for your team.
- Be aware of the order off rule and the consequences of undisciplined behaviour.
- Be a good sport before and after games no matter the result by shaking your direct opponent's hand

The player must remain off the field for whatever period of time that the umpire has decided by showing either the yellow or red card when the send off occurred. **Replacement is allowed** for the player whilst the penalty is in operation. For the purpose of this rule "**off the field**" means outside the boundary line. Players sent off **must not** cross the line **until** their send off period has expired.

6. If a player does not leave the field quickly he can be reported for deliberately wasting time.
7. A player, who has been sent off and **does not** report through the Interchange area when leaving the field, **will not be allowed** back on the field of play and he cannot be replaced.
8. When the sent off player or his replacement returns to the field of play in terms of (5) above, he must report through the Interchange area
9. The Interchange Steward must indicate clearly on the Interchange Form, the time and name and number of the player sent off and they must indicate when the player, or a replacement, goes back on to the field in terms of (5) above.
10. Any player reported will be sent off for the remainder of the match.
11. Where a sent off player or his replacement goes back on the field before the penalty has expired and a count of players has been called, which results in a team having the incorrect number on the field, then such team may be penalized by way of reverse of match results, annulment of score or part thereof, fine or censure, as the Management Committee shall consider proper.

## **SEND OFF RULE** **REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

1. Club appointed umpires do not have the authority to order players off unless their club is not playing.
2. Field Umpires, either under the single or two umpire system, are the only umpires with the authority to order off players. Goal and Boundary umpires are not so authorized.
3. The Order Off Rule is automatic where the Field umpire reports a player, but can also be used to invoke an instant penalty for what otherwise would be a breach in the laws of the game without reporting such a player. This would apply when a player has not committed a reportable offence but has breached the law and given away a free kick in a deliberate and undisciplined manner or behaved in a manner detrimental to the image of the game. If an umpire, by error, fails to send off a reported player, this in no way alters the validity of a report. **If a player is sent off twice in the same game and is not reported, such player will be suspended for one fixture or finals game.**
4. The authority of a Field umpire to send off players, not only includes when play is in progress, but includes all other times when players are on the field of play. If a player is sent off before the commencement of the game, in-between the first and second quarters or between the third and fourth quarter, he must remain off the field for that quarter and can be replaced.
5. **The Field umpire will signal that a player has been ordered off by pointing to the boundary line with his outstretched arm where he will show either a yellow card for a cooling off period or red card which means he has been reported and cannot return to the field during the remainder of the game.** The player must leave the field immediately via the interchange area and report to the Interchange Steward.  
**The game must be stopped and as soon as practicable by the Central Umpire and time added while the player leaves the field. The Central Umpire must ensure that the player goes through the interchange area and must not restart play until that occurs.**

## **Consequences**

Players who are reported and subsequently found guilty and suspended either at Club level or during State Championships will not be considered for State selection or allowed to participate in any football games or activities conducted by his regional team or AFL Queensland during the time period of that suspension. At the completion of his suspension he will be eligible again for talented program activities.

If during the Championships the Talent manager or his designated representative views a player acting in an undisciplined manner and that player is not disciplined by his coach then the Talent manager will request the coach remove the player from the ground for a cooling off period.

**Good luck with your football**



## Coaches and Support staff Code of Conduct

In being appointed to a coaching or support role in the AFL Queensland talent player program you are agreeing to uphold the values set out in the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct.

There are many different roles in the make up of the Talented Player pathway program and the Regional teams that participate. Sometimes support staff or coaches or AFL Queensland development staff have to perform more than one role or a different role at certain age groups.

Therefore the principles set out in the Coaches Code of conduct is the bench mark for acceptable standards which we expect staff to operate within.

I would ask all staff of Regional and State teams to read the booklet and fully understand that people not operating within the spirit of what is in the best interest of the game and player development will be open to a breach of the Code.

Procedures for breaches of the Code are also included in the booklet, please read this information and be aware of the process and consequences in the case of a serious breach.

### Player discipline

Ultimately the accountability and education of the players in relation to discipline on and off the field while the player is in the team environment is the responsibility in the first instance the Head coach of the team and secondly if a mediation process has to be put in place to deal with an issue the Area Development manager.

Melees and general poor discipline will not be acceptable.

## Match day management

The management and general behaviour of coaches, support staff and players in the designated team bench area on match days is the responsibility of the Area Development Manager or if he is not in attendance his appointed representative.

If the Area Manager is not going to attend he needs to personally inform the Championship manager of who his representative will be.

AFL Queensland appreciates the time and effort and the role all volunteers do play, we also have a responsibility to operate within what the AFL see as acceptable standards of behaviour.

Thanks for your support and assistance.

