



Barossa United Junior Soccer Club Code of Conduct

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Barossa United Junior Soccer Club (BUJSC). BUJSC is committed to the positive promotion of soccer for boys and girls through its teams and development program. The aim of the club is to make the game fun to play, and help our players promote and develop teamwork, positive sporting behaviour and skills in this wonderful game that we call soccer.

To be able to provide all members, spectators, parents and visitors a positive environment, we expect everyone to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Club at all times. The role of the Code of Conduct is to outline these expectations to ensure we are providing the best possible environment for children to play soccer.

2. Participation For All

BUJSC complies with the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 to ensure no person is discriminated against on the basis of their gender, sexuality, marital status, pregnancy, race, age, or physical or intellectual impairment. The Club welcomes all children and their families and encourages all to participate.

BUJSC is a reflection of today's society. The club has participants from ethnically diverse backgrounds, boys and girls playing together and men and women in leadership and coaching roles within the Club. The Club is very committed to ensuring that all people, regardless of their cultural background and ability, have equal access to play and represent the Club and this is achieved through ensuring everyone one is respected and valued and is reaffirmed throughout the Clubs Codes of Conduct.

3. Members Code of Conduct

As a member (parent/caregiver, committee member, coach or referee) of the Barossa United Junior Soccer Club, a member accepts responsibility for complying with this code of conduct. The member also agrees that any breach of the Code of Conduct may incur a penalty decided by the Club Committee.

All members will:

- Accept responsibility for the actions of, and behaviour of, any family members (immediate or extended) attending any match, training or organised function in line with the individual codes of conduct of the club.
- Act responsibly towards officials, players and supporters of the Elizabeth & Districts Junior Soccer Association (EDJSA), BUJSC or an opposing team.
- Respect and follow directions of club, coaching and match officials.
- Never provoke or show aggression towards other players or abuse match officials.
- Avoid individual or collective behaviour, which may be seen by others to be offensive.
- Make no detrimental statements in public about match, club or district officials.
- Must not offend, intimidate, bully or harass any member, player or other person.
- Respect facilities and equipment of both our club and opposing clubs.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person -regardless of their gender, ability, sexuality, cultural background or religion.
- Encourage and applaud good and fair play by teammates and other teams.
- Assist your club at functions, in fundraising and on game day.
- Abide by the **ZERO TOLERANCE** of Alcohol Policy. No alcohol is to be consumed on the sidelines during any game except within a licensed facility.
- No Smoking (including e-cigarettes) is permitted within 10 metres of the playing Area.

4. Players Code of Conduct

As a player of the Barossa United Junior Soccer Club, a player accepts responsibility for complying with this code of conduct. As we are a Junior Club we encourage parents to assist their children in understanding what is expected of them when playing for BUJSC.

- Play by the rules and show respect for other players, coaches and officials.
- Never argue with an official - if you need clarification, have your Ground Marshall talk to the umpire at half time or the competition of the game.
- Play fair — no verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players (including vilification) or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent.
- Show respect to and acknowledge opponents and officials - (e.g. shake hands before and after the game and say things like 'good luck', 'thanks for the game', 'thanks ref', 'three cheers for ...').
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team - your team's performance will benefit — so will you.
- Be a good sport - applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents - without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit - not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants - regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Must not offend, intimidate, bully or harass any member, player or other person.
- Accepts all policies set in place by the club.
- Give your best at all times.
- Respect facilities and equipment of both our club and opposing clubs.
- Act responsibly on and off the field at all times.
- Do not expect or accept "special" favours from a coach or person involved in team or club management.
- Speak to an adult you trust if you have an issue, feel unsafe or are concerned about someone else.

5. Parents & Spectators Code of Conduct

Any parent or spectator also accepts responsibility for complying with the following codes in addition to the Members Code of Conduct. All parents and spectators will:

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment - not yours. Encourage your child to participate, do their best and have fun.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, rather than winning or losing.

- Encourage children to play according to the rules - settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or not winning.
- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for coaches, officials and administrators - remember they are usually volunteers.
- Applaud good performance and efforts - from all individuals and teams.
- Congratulate all participants - regardless of the game's outcome.
- Condemn the use of violence, verbal abuse or vilification in any form – regardless of whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Support all policies and practices (lead by example). This includes responsible alcohol use and support of child safe strategies of the Club.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person -regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Ensure you are aware and follow the correct processes to follow if you have an issue or complaint – do not perpetuate issues with gossip or general criticism.
- Help out the coach or officials at training and games, where possible.
- Model appropriate behaviour, including respect for other players and officials.
- Follow all Club policies and rules at all times.

6. Coaches Code of Conduct

- Remember that young people participate for fun - winning is only part of the fun.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of soccer -help your players to understand that playing by the rules is their responsibility.
- Relate to officials in a courteous and polite way.
- Implement relevant sport safety policies and practices.
- Implement BUJSC Code of Conduct in relation to responsible use of alcohol and in relation to recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- Listen to your players - ensure that the time they spend with you is a positive experience.
- Encourage young people to participate in administration, coaching and officiating -as well as playing.
- Promote a culturally tolerant environment.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants - regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Keep up to date with coaching practices and qualifications –ensure you understand the principles of physical growth and development.
- Give young people the chance to try out different playing positions.
- Implement the BUJSC Child Safe Policy – ensure you are aware of your mandated responsibility to report suspicion of child abuse and neglect.
- Be aware that children with disabilities use sports participation as a way to engage with community and develop and foster their inclusion.

- Complete the BUJSC Responding to Abuse and Neglect (RAN) Training.
- Focus on developing routine, respectful relationships with parents.
- Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate, ask is it necessary for the player's skill development?
- Avoid developing any 'special' relationships with children – ensure that you show no favouritism such as the offering of gifts or special treatment. This includes intimate relationships and personal online social networking with team members.

7. Child Safe Policy

This policy reflects the commitment of BUJSC to provide a safe environment where every person has the right to be treated with respect and is safe and protected from abuse. We are committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people accessing our soccer club and the welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children are valued and feel safe.

We have appointed a Child Safety Coordinator and Child Safe Officers (See Appendix 1) who are the first point of contact to provide advice and support to children, parents, committee members and volunteers regarding the safety and well-being of children at our Club.

BUJSC comply with our obligations under The Children's Protection Act 1993 which requires that organisations:

- Develop policies and procedures to establish and maintain child safe environments.
- Meet 'relevant history information' requirements for people working with or in close proximity to children or their records in prescribed positions.
- Lodge a statement setting out their child safe environment policies and procedures. The statement should confirm that their child safe environment policies and procedures are of a standard set by DECD.

To view the full Child Safe Policy please visit www.barossaunited.com.au.

8. Alcohol & Smoking Policy

It is hoped by BUJSC that all reasonable adults would agree that the consumption and sale of alcohol has no place on the sidelines at any junior sporting game, no matter what the code of game being played. In line with the Elizabeth & Districts Junior Soccer Association Policy the BUJSC specify:

- The ban the sale or consumption of alcohol at any EDJSA sanctioned games or training except inside of a licensed premises.
- It is the responsibility of all members to enforce this, members cannot take the approach of ignoring instances of inappropriate alcohol sale or consumption or by claiming ignorance of the regulations.
- Zero tolerance means that no excuses will be accepted and offending members or spectators will be held accountable by BUJSC.
- No Smoking (including e-cigarettes) is permitted within the BUJSC grounds.

9. Inclement Weather Policy

9.1 Hot Weather

Any outdoor activities shall be cancelled if the temperature is 32 degrees Celsius or greater at the training and/or game location.

Advice Notes:

- The League Secretary will advise of cancellation for League or Cup games. Notwithstanding that the Referees may abandon the game if they feel that the players are at risk due to the heat.
- This policy applies to any out-of-season approved activities.
- Clubs are all permanent members of this association and so should use this policy as a guide when conducting any out-of-season friendly games and/or training sessions.
- Actual training ground temperatures can be sourced from electronic devices, the internet or an outdoor temperature sensor and may provide a better guide for clubs when conducting out-of-season games or training.
- When friendly games or training are conducted in temperatures over 25 degrees Celsius adequate drink and rest breaks should be considered and scheduled where necessary during the activity.

9.2 Hail & Thunder and Lightning Storms

Any games, trials or training sanctioned by E&DJSA will not continue or be played whilst there is hail falling onto the ground or there are thunder and lightning storms in the immediate vicinity.

9.3 Extreme Wet Weather - Modified Rules U6 & U7

If the forecast for the game day is extreme wet weather BUJSC will contact the E&DJSA League Secretary before 6:30 pm the day before. With his concurrence the game can be cancelled and will not be replayed. You must then contact the other coach immediately and advise him of the cancellation. Games can only be forfeit on game day by the referee and may result in the offending club being fined.

Advice Notes

- Any league game abandoned under the E&DJSA Weather Policy will be rescheduled at the discretion of the League Secretary, this also includes the possibility that the game may not be rescheduled.
- At all times it's the referee's decision, and there's alone, to abandon or delay any game (not cancelled by E&DJSA) due to current weather or ground conditions. It is hoped that all referees how-ever-so appointed will consider this policy when necessary and if deciding to let play continue in direct contradiction to this policy realise they may be held liable for any resultant player injuries.

- Any games abandoned by the association or the referee under this policy cannot be played as 'friendlies' with a parent or coach referee. The extreme weather or ground conditions are still present and continue to be considered hazardous to the player's health.

10. Vision Correction Equipment Policy

As per the E&DJSA policy, BUJSC have developed a policy covering the wearing of vision correction equipment by players. This policy provides an acceptably safe environment for the vision correction equipment wearing player as well as relevant officials, other players and referees involved in the game.

10.1 Player Responsibilities

- All official documentation required under this policy must be made available for each and every referee to verify before the player concerned will be able to play in any E&DJSA authorised game.
- At the discretion of the referee some frames may need to have tape placed around protruding or hinged areas.
- Failure to comply with the policy or if the referee does not accept that the style of spectacle frame or lens is safe will result in the player NOT PLAYING.

10.2 Contact lenses

- Contact lenses are the preferred vision correction equipment, and then preferably lenses made specifically for sports.

10.3 Spectacles & Goggles

- Preferred spectacle option is Sports-specific spectacles with frames made from either polycarbonate or nylon in one piece with no hinges or separate sides to fracture under impact (readily available within Australia).
- These frames normally have an elasticised strap attached to the ends which fits around the back of the head to retain the frames on the head during strenuous movements or impact and are normally used for just the sports activities. Sports goggles are permissible a letter of compliance is not necessary.
- Acceptable alternate spectacle option - players will be able to wear their conventional "street-wear" frame, provided that they are fitted with prescription lenses made from suitable safety materials. The frames must be made of a suitable material, have no excessive protruding features and must be restrained behind the head by some kind of strapping that will retain the frames on the head during strenuous movement.

10.4 Responsibilities

- You or your parent/guardian are required to obtain a signed statement from an optometrist indicating the material from which the lenses and the frames are made.

- This documentation must be available for the referee to review prior to each and every game played. A copy should be retained by the coach/ manager.
- All registered players must comply. A list of materials for both frames and lenses is given below.

Lenses

- Polycarbonate
- Tri-Vis

Frames

- Silicon based (flexible plastic)
- Tri-Vis

Parents should keep this policy in mind when renewing their child's glasses ensuring that the correct design and types of materials are used in the manufacture.

11. Wearing of Jewellery

A player must not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or others. All players must remove all items of jewellery prior to entering the field of play. This includes bands, leather necklaces and any other loose jewellery, specifically:

- The taping of wedding rings is no longer permitted.
- Sweatbands may be worn.
- Earrings: No earrings are acceptable. The practice of taping earrings is not acceptable.
- Facial rings: Any kind of jewellery around the eyes must be removed. Jewellery in any other part of the face must be removed.
- Necklaces: All necklaces must be removed Medical alert necklaces only may be worn but they must be taped securely to the chest.
- Bracelets: All bracelets [including metal, rope, fabric, etc] must be removed. Medical alert bracelets only may be worn but must have all but the medical information covered by tape.
- Body Piercing: Any Piercing not visible to the referee is not of concern. Should the piercing become visible the referee will ensure it is removed.
- Tongue Piercing: Rings/studs through the tongue are discouraged for the players' own safety. Should the referee detect a tongue piercing, the referee will ensure it is removed.
- Rings: No rings may be worn.
- Watches: Players [but not match officials] must remove all watches.
- Beaded Hair: If a player is wearing hair beads the hair must be tied in a bun or covered by a hair net. Loose beaded hair should not be allowed.

Any player not complying with this Policy will not be allowed to play by the match referee.

12. Members & Players Communication and Use of Technology Policy

All members and players are expected to use electronic communication and social media such as Facebook, appropriately and in line with the club policy, when discussing/communicating on or about, club matters. Remember that anything that you write, SMS, email, post, blog and so on, is a written record of your thoughts on a matter.

Communication by club members and players:

- Must not offend, intimidate or bully any member, player or other person.
- Cyber bullying* will not be tolerated by BUJSC.
- Must not lead to the offending, intimidation, humiliation, bullying or harassment, of any person.
- Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of members, players or others
- Must not bring BUJSC into disrepute.
- Must not engage in negative or destructive discussions or postings.
- Must not post or upload photos or videos, relating to club activities or member, without the written permission of the person(s) in the image.

Non-compliance

Any club member or player found to have sent inappropriate electronic communication, uploaded inappropriate content or engaged in blogs or discussions that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate anyone will face disciplinary action.

In addition, members and/or players publishing false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g. Facebook or other social networking sites, including the BUJSC site) will face disciplinary action and may be liable for defamation.

The disciplinary process and penalties incurred will be per the E&DJSA Disciplinary Policy.

*Cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging, social networking sites and so on) under certain circumstances is a criminal offence that can be reported by victims to the Police. The club can also report (initiate separate action) where there has been a breach of this Policy or the Child Protection Act.

13. Raising a Complaint with Barossa United Junior Soccer Club

Barossa United Junior Soccer Club recognise that sometimes things go wrong and you may feel that your expectations of BUJSC are not being met or you may witness breaches to the Code of Conduct that you wish to report. It is important to work together, talk, listen and find solutions so we can improve BUJSC and ensure a safe playing environment for players and spectators.

The following information will walk you through the steps you can take when you have a complaint or concern.

13.1 BUJSC Responsibilities

BUJSC has a duty to respond to complaints. BUJSC will endeavour to act in the best interests of all parties involved and respond to a complaint as quickly, fairly and effectively as possible and apply the following principles:

- Treat complaints seriously;
- Act promptly;
- Treat people fairly and listen to both sides;
- Stay neutral;
- Keep parties to the complaint informed;
- Maintain confidentiality if possible;
- Protect against victimisation;
- Keep accurate records;
- Make decisions based only on information gathered not personal views; and
- Disciplinary action will be relative to the breach of Code of Conduct.

Types of concerns and complaints

You may choose to raise an issue or make a complaint if you believe that a BUJSC committee member, coach, player or spectator has:

- Breached the Code of Conduct
- Breached the Child Safe Policy
- Failed to do something they should have to ensure the safety of members

Your concern or complaint may be about:

- The behaviour and / or decisions of Committee Members or Coaches
- The behaviour of a spectator on the sidelines of the games
- The on-field behaviour of players

13.2 Steps to take if you have a complaint

Step 1: Raise the complaint with the Team Manager

Try to resolve your concern or complaint at team level wherever possible. The team manager should always be your first point of contact. Make a time to talk to your Team manager to discuss your concerns, or you may want to put your concerns in a letter or email. As a rule of thumb less serious complaints lend themselves to being resolved quickly and informally.

If you do not wish to discuss the issue with the Team Manager, then you can contact the BUJSC President or BUJSC Secretary. They will work with you to resolve the issue.

Step 2: Club Resolution

After trying to resolve your complaint at the team level, if you are not satisfied that your complaint has been resolved then please seek support from the BUJSC President or BUJSC Secretary to have the complaint resolved.

Step 3: Other ways to resolve your issue

If BUJSC can't resolve your issue through the previous steps, or you are not satisfied with the resolution process you may choose to seek independent advice and review by an external agency. The Elizabeth and District Junior Soccer Association will be your point of contact for further resolution.

13.3 Reporting and responding to suspected abuse and neglect

Different procedures are required when there is a suspicion of harm against a child to meet mandatory reporting requirements. The Child Safe Officers of the BUJSC will take the lead in any cases of alleged child abuse. The following steps will be taken by BUJSC to respond to an allegation of child abuse.

- Step 1: Clarify basic details of the allegation
- Step 2: Report allegations of a serious or criminal nature
- Step 3: Protect the child and make sure the alleged offender is not victimized
- Step 4: Follow the child protection authority or police requirements
- Step 5: Manage the situation
- Step 6: Implement disciplinary action as required