

Mazenod FC Child Safe Code of Conduct

A Child Safe Code of Conduct lists behaviours that are acceptable and those that are unacceptable. It provides a high-level statement of professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and acceptable and unacceptable relationships. When individuals are clear about behavioural expectations, they are much more likely to act appropriately with each other and with children. When everyone is educated about the Code of Conduct and the reasons it is so important to uphold, the environment becomes much more transparent and people are accountable for their behaviour. Above all, a Child Safety Code of Conduct helps to protect children from harm.

Our Child Safe Code of Conduct

This Child Safe Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour for all adults towards players. The Code serves to protect players, reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur, and promote child safety within the Club environment. It provides guidance on how to best support players and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations. Where there are breaches of the Code, Mazenod Football Club may take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal. Mazenod Football Club has the following expectations of behaviours and boundaries for all adults interacting with players within our football community. This includes all coaching staff, team managers, Board members, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers and parents/carers.

Acceptable Behaviours

- Behave as a positive role model to players.
- Promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of players.
- Be vigilant and proactive with regard to player safety and child protection issues.
- Provide age appropriate supervision for players.
- Comply with guidelines published by the Club with respect to child protection.
- Treat all players with respect.
- Promote the safety, participation and empowerment of players with a disability.
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of linguistically and culturally diverse players.
- Use positive and affirming language towards players.
- Encourage players to 'have a say' and participate, and then listen to them with respect.
- Respect cultural, religious and political differences.
- Help provide an open, safe and supportive environment for all players to interact.
- Intervene when players are engaging in inappropriate bullying behaviour towards others or acting in a humiliating or vilifying way.
- Report any breaches of this Child Safe Code of Conduct.

- Report concerns about child safety to the Club's Child Safety Officer and ensure that your legal obligations to report allegations externally are met.
- Where an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the student involved is safe.
- Call the Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a player's safety.
- Respect the privacy of students and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.

Unacceptable Behaviour

- Engage in any form of inappropriate behaviour towards player or expose players to such behaviour.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language with players.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of players or discriminate against any player based on culture, race, ethnicity or disability.
- Engage in open discussions of an adult nature in the presence of players (minors).
- Engage in any form of sexual conduct with a player including making sexually suggestive comments and sharing sexually suggestive material.
- Engage in inappropriate or unnecessary physical conduct or behaviours including doing things of a personal nature that a player can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Engage in any form of physical violence towards a player including inappropriately rough physical play.
- Use physical means or corporal punishment to discipline or control a player.
- Engage in any form of behaviour that has the potential to cause a player's serious emotional or psychological harm.
- Develop 'special' relationships with players that could be seen as favouritism (for example, special treatment for specific player).
- Engage in undisclosed private meetings with a player that is not your own child.
- Engage in meetings with a player that is not your own, outside of training hours and without permission from the Club and the player's (Mini Zebras- U18) parent.
- Engage in inappropriate personal communications with a player through any medium, including any online contact or interactions with a player.
- Take or publish (including online) photos, movies or recordings of a player Mini Zebras- U18) without parental/carer consent.
- Post online any information about a player that may identify them such as their: full name; age; e-mail address; telephone number; residence; school; or details of a club or group they may attend.
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

Reporting Concerns

Staff, third party contractors, external education providers, volunteers, students, parents/carers and other community members who have concerns that a Mazenod FC player may be subject to abuse or grooming are asked to contact the relevant authority <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse>

For any urgent matters of concern regarding child safety contact the Police 000 or the After hours child protection emergency service on 131 278.

For non urgent issues, contact the relevant coach, member of the Mazenod FC board or email the Club: info@mazenodfootballclub.com.au Communication will be treated confidentially with a 'need to know' basis.

Policy Review

Mazenod Football Club is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Safe Program, which is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child safe related laws, regulations and standards.

Acknowledgment of Child Safety Code

I have received and read the Mazenod Football Child Safe Code of Conduct. I understand my obligations and responsibilities under the Code of Conduct. This includes immediately reporting any breach of this Code to a coach, a Child Safety Officer or a member of the Mazenod Football Board or the relevant authority. If a child is at immediate risk of abuse, I will contact the Police on 000. By signing the below, I agree to comply with the Child Safe Code of Conduct.

Signed:

Date:

____/____/____

(NAME)

(Mazenod FC Team)

Reviewed by Daniela Cavallo. May 2022

Next Review Date: Dec 2023