

# **SOUTHERN BRANCH INC**



**FOOTBALL  
NSW  
SOUTHERN  
BRANCH**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

**PLAYERS and PARENT/S, GUARDIAN/S  
& CAREGIVER/S**

## **CODE of CONDUCT:      PLAYER**

Playing for enjoyment as a member of a team is the most fundamental part of the game. Whilst winning is the objective, it is not to be achieved at any cost. Fair play and respect for all others in the game is essential. This Code focuses on players involved in team football.

Nevertheless, the key concepts in the Code are valid for players at all levels.

1. Players must play football to enjoy themselves and accept that striving to win is more important than winning itself. Victory and defeat are inevitable and should be accepted equally.
2. Players must understand and abide by the laws, rules, and spirit of the game in any competition in which you participate.
3. Players must always exhibit good sportsmanship, never condone violations of the laws of the game or exhibit behaviour contrary to the spirit or laws of the game.
4. Players must consistently display high standards of behaviour.
5. Players must respect the wishes and directions of their coach.
6. Players must always respect the referees' decisions.
7. Players must always treat opponents with due respect and avoid words or actions that may mislead a match official.
8. Players must **NOT** use offensive, abusive or insulting language toward any other player, official or parent.
9. Players must display a good attitude at training and match days.
10. Players must aim to arrive at training and match days 15 minutes early and will stay until dismissed by the coach or unless otherwise agreed (training times and/or venues may change from time to time due to availability or weather conditions and this is at the Clubs and/or Coach's discretion (Southern Branch Inc reserve the right to change times and/or venue of training to anywhere within the Shoalhaven area and players will be expected to attend. We will always endeavour to give reasonable notice of time or venue changes).
11. Players must aim to arrive for matches in advance of kick-off and training as directed by the team manager.

12. Players must **NOT** wear jewellery during training or matches.
13. Players must always wear the correct kit provided by Southern Branch Inc. (The Club kit is only to be worn for training and matches).
14. Players must wear football boots that are in a good and safe condition.
15. Players must wear shin pads during training and matches.
16. Players must not eat or chew during training and matches.
17. Players must inform the coach when they have an injury.
18. Players must ensure that all requisite forms are filled in correctly.
19. Players must encourage their teammates – “you cannot win a game on your own”.
20. Players must be aware and adhere to Southern Branch Inc social media policy.

**Failing to adhere to the code of conduct could lead to:**

1. Player stood down from training session/s.
2. Player stood down from game/s but must attend training sessions.
3. Player stood down from training session/s and game/s.
4. Player and parent are asked to leave the Club, and de-registered following full payment of any outstanding fees.

## **CODE of CONDUCT: PARENT/S, GUARDIAN/S & CAREGIVER/S**

First and foremost, ensure that football participation for your child and others is a positive experience. Young people participate in football for their pleasure and enjoyment, not yours. Remember a child is easily affected by outside influences. A parent, guardian or caregivers' expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude and behaviour towards other players, coaches, officials, managers, and other parents.

1. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must encourage players to always play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility, verbal abuse, or violence. These types of behaviour will **NOT** be tolerated at Southern Branch Inc. We must support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from football, both on and off the field.
2. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must show control, respect, and appreciation to all involved within football. This includes players, opponents, coaches, officials, managers, other parents and spectators. We must encourage players to do the same. Remember without these **volunteers**, we all would not be able to participate in football.
3. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must respect the Coach – interact, with courtesy, through the Team Manager. We must leave coaching to the Coach, regardless of whether you agree or disagree.
4. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must encourage players to speak with the Coach directly. If a player is having difficulties in training or games or can't attend training or games, we must encourage them to speak directly to the Coach/Manager. This "responsibility taking" is a big part of becoming a mature person. By handling these off field tasks themselves, players are claiming ownership of all aspects of the game.
5. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must always respect the Referee and Officials, and we must teach the players to do likewise. These people are there to make the game fair and more enjoyable. We must understand these people are human and humans make mistakes and this needs to be explained to the player. Your attitude and behaviour toward Referees and Officials affect the players attitude and behaviour also.
6. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must applaud good play by the team and members of opposing teams.

7. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must accept the result of each game and encourage players to be gracious in both victory and defeat. However, you can turn defeat into victory by being solution focused and working on improving player performance.
8. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must not criticise **ANY** player. We must allow the Coaches to do their work and **NOT** add personal suggestions. This may add to player confusion and erode player confidence.
9. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must allow the player to drive any conversation or discussion around training and games. We must ask for the players thoughts and do **NOT** enforce our own.
10. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must ensure players arrive on time for training and matches wearing correct uniform.
11. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must respect the Club and the facilities, including those at opponent's grounds.
12. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must develop and teach responsibilities to the player. Give them the responsibility to pack their football bags, clean their own boots and bring their water bottles.
13. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must stand behind the official lines and barriers, when watching training sessions or matches. We must **NOT** stand behind the goals, this is strictly prohibited.
14. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must inform the Team Manager of any medical condition a player has and please supply a doctor's certificate if a player has sustained an injury as they require official clearance to play subsequent games.
15. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must support the Team Manager by turning up to all their allocated game duties. Please arrange a swap of duties if unable to meet any rostered commitments, for example: canteen or official duties.
16. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must pay registrations on time and ensure all requisite forms are filled out correctly.
17. Parent, guardian, or caregiver must be respectful to club officials on game days and abide by their requests and decisions.

**Failing to adhere to the code of conduct could lead to:**

1. A verbal warning being issued.
2. A written warning being issued.
3. Not being permitted to attend your players training session/s.
4. Not being permitted to attend your players training session/s and game/s.
5. Player stood down from game/s but must attend training session/s.
6. Player and parent are asked to leave the Club, and de-registered following full payment of any outstanding fees.

**Please note: Time of exclusion will be determined by the Southern Branch Inc standing organising team in consultation with the Coach, Team Manager and SAP/Youth Convenors.**