



WILLIAMS LANDING FOOTBALL CLUB

PARENT AND SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Updated: January 2026

1. Welcome to Our Football Community

As a parent, guardian, or spectator at Williams Landing Football Club (WLFC), you play a vital role in creating a positive environment where all participants can enjoy football, develop their skills, and build lasting friendships. Your behaviour and attitude significantly influence the experience of players, coaches, officials, and other families.

1.1 Our Shared Values

- **Respect** for all participants, officials, and families
- **Inclusion** ensuring everyone feels welcome regardless of background
- **Positive support** that encourages rather than pressures
- **Fair play** modelling good sportsmanship for young people
- **Community spirit** building a club that families are proud to be part of

1.2 Your Important Role

- Inspire players through positive encouragement
- Model appropriate behaviour for children to follow
- Support the development of all players, not just your own child
- Contribute to a welcoming atmosphere for visiting teams and officials
- Help create positive memories that players will carry for life

2. Creating a Positive Match Day Environment

2.1 Supporting All Players

Positive Encouragement

- Cheer for good play from both teams
- Focus on effort and improvement rather than just results
- Use encouraging language that builds confidence



- Celebrate skill development and sportsmanship
- Acknowledge good officiating when you see it

Avoiding Negative Impact

- Never criticise, ridicule, or embarrass any player for mistakes
- Avoid shouting tactical instructions – let coaches do their job
- Don't put additional pressure on players through your expectations
- Remember that children play for their own enjoyment, not yours

2.2 Respecting Match Officials

- Referees are human and will occasionally make errors
- Officials are often volunteers giving their time to enable games to happen
- Accept referee decisions as final, even when you disagree
- Model respect for officials through your words and actions
- Thank referees at the end of matches for their contribution
- Report genuine safety concerns to club officials, not by shouting from the sideline

3. Expectations for Spectator Conduct

3.1 Language and Communication

- Use language suitable for a family environment
- Avoid profanity, offensive terms, or inappropriate language
- Keep volume reasonable – avoid excessive shouting
- Respect the diverse backgrounds of all participants
- Avoid comments about race, religion, culture, or national origin

3.2 Physical Behaviour and Safety

- Remain in designated spectator areas at all times
- Never enter the field of play without permission from officials
- Keep walkways and emergency exits clear
- Follow venue-specific rules and regulations
- Avoid throwing objects of any kind



4. Supporting Your Child's Football Journey

4.1 Healthy Perspectives on Competition

- Emphasise skill improvement over winning and losing
- Celebrate effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship
- Help your child set realistic, personal goals
- Understand that development happens at different rates for different children
- Support your child's level of interest and commitment
- Encourage participation for fitness, fun, and friendship

4.2 Communication with Coaches

Coaches are volunteers giving their time to develop your child. Please:

- Raise concerns through the appropriate channel: Team Manager → Youth Coordinator → Committee
- Avoid approaching coaches during training or matches about selection or game time
- Request a conversation at an appropriate time – before or after training, or by message
- Trust the process – development is long-term and not always visible week to week

5. The Volunteer-Model Reality

WLFC is run entirely by volunteers. Every coach, team manager, and committee member is giving their personal time to provide football for your child. This means:

- Coaching quality will vary – we invest in development but cannot guarantee professional standards
- Administrative processes may not always be instant – please be patient
- Every family is expected to contribute in some way during the season

Families seeking a fully professional coaching environment may wish to explore NPL pathway clubs, which operate at a significantly higher cost. WLFC's strength is its community.



6. Volunteering Expectations

Every family should contribute in some way during the season. This might include:

- Canteen duties
- Setting up or packing down fields
- Assisting with team management
- Supporting club events and fundraising
- Joining working bees

Speak to your Team Manager about how you can help. No special skills required – just willingness.

7. Communication Pathways

WLFC has a clear escalation path for concerns:

1. Speak with your Team Manager in the first instance
2. If unresolved, contact the Youth Coordinator
3. If further escalation is needed, contact a Committee Member

Please do not approach coaches directly about non-football matters, or approach other families about conduct issues – always use the club's communication pathway.

8. Social Media and Online Conduct

Online behaviour is subject to the same standards as behaviour at the ground. Please:

- Never post negative or critical comments about players, coaches, or officials on social media
- Do not share images of other people's children without their consent
- Resolve grievances through the club, not public forums

For full guidance, refer to the WLFC Social Media Policy.



9. Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour

9.1 Progressive Response

4. Friendly reminder of expectations from Team Manager or coach
5. Formal discussion with club officials; written warning issued
6. Temporary exclusion from attending matches and training
7. Termination of family membership; potential referral to Football Victoria

9.2 Serious Misconduct – Immediate Action

The following may result in immediate removal and suspension:

- Threatening or violent behaviour toward any person
- Racial, religious, or cultural abuse
- Persistent harassment of officials, players, or other families
- Behaviour that compromises child safety

For the financial consequence framework (fines passed to families, player suspension until resolved), refer to the WLFC Registration Fees and Fines Policy.

10. Annual Commitments and Expectations

10.1 Season Participation

- Understand the importance of regular attendance at training and matches
- Communicate absences in advance when possible
- Support team activities and end-of-season celebrations
- Fulfil any volunteer commitments made during registration

10.2 Club Events

- Support major club events like presentation nights and fundraisers
 - Participate in working bees and facility maintenance
 - Contribute to the club's financial sustainability
-



11. Contact Information

11.1 Club Contacts

- Club Secretary: secretary@williamslandingfc.com
- Club President: president@williamslandingfc.com
- Child Safety Officer: Elizabeth Vidos – secretary@williamslandingfc.com

11.2 External Support Services

- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- eSafety Commissioner: esafety.gov.au

11.3 Football Victoria

- General Enquiries: info@footballvictoria.com.au
- Disciplinary Matters: discipline@ffv.org.au
- Child Safety: childsafety@footballvictoria.com.au

12. Acknowledgment

By attending Williams Landing Football Club events and activities, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to comply with this Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct. This policy should be read alongside the WLFC Player Code of Conduct, Registration Fees and Fines Policy, Social Media Policy, Photography and Video Policy, and Privacy Policy.

Document Control

Approved: 1 January 2026 · Review Date: January 2027 · Version: 2026.1