

## **Appendix 10.26 – SANFL Juniors Zero Tolerance Policy**

### **PURPOSE**

In an effort to provide participants with a healthy, safe and developmental athletic environment that encourages fair play, effort, teamwork and sportsmanship, SANFL Juniors supports a Zero Tolerance Policy for players, parents, coaches, game officials, umpires, team officials, league administrators and spectators. This policy requires that a sportsmanlike and developmentally positive atmosphere exist before, during and after all SANFL Juniors sanctioned events.

### **POLICY**

All SANFL Juniors players, coaches, team officials, league administrators and parents are expected to conduct him/herself in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times before, during and after SANFL Juniors sanctioned events. Good conduct is expected to extend to umpires, game officials, spectators, as well as to opposing players, coaches and parents.

The following is SANFL Juniors Zero Tolerance Policy:

#### **Players**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language and/or gestures at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.
- Displays unsportsmanlike behaviour toward any player.

#### **Coaches**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or disputes any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators. Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

#### **Officials**

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

#### **Parents/Spectators**

The game will be stopped by game officials or league administrators when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behaviour interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials or league administrators will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced

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and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the SANFL Juniors.

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a parent/spectator:

- Uses obscene or vulgar language and/or gestures in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

In addition, the SANFL Juniors Codes of Conduct for parents and spectators should be adhered to.

Failure to abide by SANFL Juniors Zero Tolerance Policy may result in disciplinary actions against the player(s), parent(s) and/or spectator(s) involved, at the sole discretion of the SANFL Juniors.

Minor Penalties for players and coaches can include:

- Free kick being paid against player
- 25m penalty
- Yellow card for continued unsportsmanlike conduct
- Official reprimand after match if player or coach is yellow carded

Game Misconduct for Coaches can result in the issuing of a Blue Card for continued unsportsmanlike conduct. A second Blue Card will result in the match being called off. In the event a match is called off then SANFL Juniors Rules & Regulations (section 8.31) applies.