




# **Ascot Vale Panthers Junior Policy**

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## **1 Ascot Vale Panthers Tenets**

Below are the 'Tenets' of the Ascot Vale Panthers Football Club:

- Be the FAMILY FIRST football club of the west where all players, siblings, parents, extended family, friends and general community are welcomed in a safe and fun environment
- A local culture which provides an opportunity to form lifelong friendships and sense of purpose
- To teach, motivate, encourage and advise young players, emphasising discipline, fitness and sportsmanship in the environment of a successful community football team.
- Develop player skills, coordination, self-confidence and resilience
- Provide an environment giving players a sense of pride and belonging to a team culture.
- Treats its players, coaches, officials and umpires with dignity and respect. ALWAYS.
- Ensure the Ascot Vale Football Club is managed to ensure a sustainable long-term future and well-respected member of the Metro Masters Football League and Essendon District Football League.
- All players, coaches and officials, parent/guardians and supporters have a responsibility at all times when representing the Ascot Vale Panthers Football Club to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner consistent with these values and those outlined above to promote the best possible environment.

### **1.1 Aim of the Junior Program**

To introduce and implement a structured skill development program.

To assist with player individual improvement.

To provide a safe, healthy and disciplined training environment.

To create an environment that encourages player and team development.

To teach the values of perseverance, integrity, honesty and friendship.

To be a good community citizen.

### **1.2 Achieving the aim**

To introduce and expose players to the basic disciplines, principles and requirements in relation to a wide range of issues that they might well be expected to undertake should they want to become the best footballer they can be.

To provide the best possible teaching, training and coaching through the football season.

By demanding a respectful, tolerant, engaging and enjoyable atmosphere where-by every player has an opportunity to develop and feel comfortable.

## **2 Junior Club Conduct**

### **2.1 Junior Participation**

By developing these key areas, we will nurture a positive Football Club environment and therefore ask all our members, players, spectators and volunteers to encourage participation of our Junior members. We ask all members of the club to respect and abide by the Club Code of Conduct

### **2.2 Junior Safety**

We encourage all Junior members to wear a mouthguard at both training and games.

## **3 Registration and Membership**

### **3.1 EDFL Registration:**

Every player must be registered with the Essendon District Football League (EDFL) every season. No player can take the field without annual EDFL registration

- Registration of existing Ascot Vale players is to be completed online via SportsTG prior to registration day. A club email will be sent to each player, as well as notification via the club's communication channels. Online registration commits the player and family to all Ascot Vale Football Club and EDFL policies.
- As affiliated member of the EDFL, it is important that we acknowledge the EDFL rules in our own policy. The League rules can be obtained from the committee or the EDFL website at [www.essendondfl.com.au](http://www.essendondfl.com.au). These rules must be adhered to.

### **3.2 Ascot Vale Football Club Membership:**

- All players are to be financial members of the Ascot Vale Football Club. Any player deemed not financial by the Treasurer at Round 1 shall not be eligible to represent Ascot Vale Football Club unless prior arrangements has been entered into by the President
- Membership can be purchased by a) after the EDFL Registration process on the SportsTG website or b) paid in person at the club at a designated time and date (after EDFL registration).

## **4 Player Selection and Participation**

The club will ensure a fair, manageable, and consistent system for team selection. These selections will be based on opportunity to develop the skills of each individual player both on and off field. The Junior committee will allocate players based on advice from coaches and team managers. The Junior committee will publish team selection prior to start of season and ask that Parents/Guardians respect the committee's decision and support us in those decisions. We will continue to assess the teams and if there is scope for movement, this will be in consultation with the Parents/Guardians.



#### **4.1 Player numbers**

We will aim to have the maximum number of players participate with adequate playing time. If team numbers exceed this amount, we will roster a fair rotation of players for the season allowing players a week off.

#### **4.2 Age Groups**

To begin playing Under 9's football all players must be 7 years of age by April 30. For all other age groups, the eligibility of an underage player shall still be determined by the age of the player on the 1st January in a competition year.

*Under 9 2010 – 2011 – 20112 (must be 7 before 30<sup>th</sup> April)*

*Under 11 2008 – 2009*

#### **4.3 Rotations**

For Under 8 and Under 10 – During season, a minimum of three quarters per player in a minimum of three zones per game. During Finals, a minimum of two quarters per player.

For Under 12 and above- During season, a minimum of three quarters per player in a minimum of two zones per game. During Finals, a minimum of two quarters per player.

#### **4.4 Playing Up an age level**

Players are only permitted to play up an age level when the physical capacity and social sense enable them to adequately compete in the higher level and the recommendation is that the decision should be based on the benefits gained by the individual. The following process must be followed to allow for such permit to be credited. We will require written permission of the player's parents or legal guardian, giving their consent for their child to play in a higher division (outside his/her age group)

#### **4.5 Finals Selection**

During the home and away season, we request coaches provide even time on the field and recommend players are rotated to give everyone time to experience different positions on the field. It should be highlighted and recognised that finals football is different from the home and away season.

We acknowledge player selection and playing time gives the team the best possible opportunity to do well. We would support coach's decisions to reward the more skilled players and players who train the hardest, with a greater opportunity for more time on the field during finals. Whilst we encourage player rotations, positions don't necessarily need to be rotated and will be left to the coach's discretion.

The player rotations and participation will be based on giving as many players an opportunity to experience finals football as possible. Players from other teams will not be used to substitute players who have played in the side for the year unless of emergency or illness. Should a team have less than 24 players, the coaches of that

particular age group, may request additional eligible players from other teams to meet the shortfall. As a minimum we would expect all players selected for finals to spend at least 1 quarter on the field

The intent of this policy is not about winning, it's rewarding and recognising those players who consistently played better during the regular season and supporting their development with more time to complete against a higher quality opponent.

### **3.5 Availability**

A huge amount of effort is input into planning for game day. We request that all players advise of availability by the Monday prior to their game day through TeamApp or through their Team Manager.

## **5 Weekly and End of Season awards**

As Ascot Vale Panthers are part of the EDFL/WRFL we are required to hand out votes for each game at U10/U11 level. This is to recognise players on a weekly basis and ultimately, overall performance over the season. All players will receive a participation award at the end of the season and U11's will have additional awards.

### **5.1 Weekly Best And Fairest**

Each week, the team manager of the U10/U11 Teams will hand out voting cards to the coach. The voting cards will be completed with player name next to each number starting with 6 points down to 1 point. The team manager will collect the voting cards at the end of the game in a sealed envelope which will be handed to the Junior President. These votes will be counted and used for the clubs end of season awards.

### **5.2 EDFL Voting Procedure**

The EDFL umpires also vote for three players on field in each game. These votes are used to determine the Best and Fairest in the division. Any votes seen online have no bearing towards the end of season awards

## **6 Conduct**

### **6.1 Coaches Code of Conduct**

All coaches abide by the AFL Conduct which can be viewed on our website

### **6.2 Coaches Accreditation**

The EDFL requires coaches to be accredited to Level One Football. The Club supports this and requires our coaches to complete the program prior to the start of the season. The club will endeavour to arrange a date for the course to be held in our clubrooms.

### **6.3 Working with Children Checks**

The EDFL/WRFL and the club require that all volunteers are subject to a Victoria Working with Children's Check and must be registered on Sports TG as a volunteer. To obtain a check, please visit [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)

### **6.4 Game Day Officials Conduct**

- All officials are representing the club when undertaking their task and must follow the club's values and the coaches code of conduct.

- Should a situation arise, follow the clubs and the leagues processes in a calm manner.
- At Junior level, it is unlikely, however please be aware of surroundings and be prepared for a situation to escalate.
- Should an oppositions behaviour become threatening or violent, advise the umpire at the first instance to forfeit the game.
- Any incidents shall be reported to the junior committee

### **6.5 Players Code of Conduct**

By joining the club, players agree to the Ascot Vale Junior Football Club Code of Conduct which can be found online on our website.

### **6.6 Parents/Guardians and Spectators Code of Conduct**

By joining their child at the club, Parents/Guardians agree to the Code of Conduct which can be found online on our website.

## **7 Administration**

As a community club, we rely on the support of our members to act as volunteers. We ask all volunteers to abide by the values and codes of conduct of the club

### **7.1 Volunteers- Match Day**

The following roles are required on Match Day:

Goal Umpire  
Boundary Umpire  
Match Day official  
Umpires Escort  
Trainer  
Timekeeper

Whilst we understand that each of these roles requires different sets of skills, we would ask that each team learns from each other and helps other families. Your team manager will draw up a roster for the season. Should you require a swap then please arrange this directly with another family through email.

### **7.2 Volunteers- Weekly**

Each week the club requires a few volunteers to assist with off-field activities. We do appreciate that this will inhibit your ability to watch your child play and therefore we will aim to only roster each family for one week of off field roles.

The following roles are required off field:

Canteen Assistance  
BBQ Assistance  
Locker room clean up

## **8 First Aid and Health and Safety**

All first aid helpers are to minimum AFL/EDFL Standards. The club maintains first aid kits to minimum standards. Any player requiring additional first aid supplies needs to contact the club to make provision.

## **9 Complaints Procedure**

Members of the Junior club may have concerns or complaints in relation to either Football operations or Football Administration. Initially, any concerns must be raised with your team manager who may request that you put your concern in writing. Should your team manager be unable to resolve, your concern will be passed onto the Junior Secretary and Junior Football Operations Manager.

If your concern is not resolved, then the issue will be passed onto the Club Junior President.

Under no circumstances must a parent approach an official or volunteer on training or game day. At training, please refer to team manager and on game day, please refer to Match Day Official.

## **10 Insurance**

### **10.1 Club Insurance**

All EDFL clubs are now required to take out costly public liability insurance, which covers the club and its employees. These policies are specifically written for sporting clubs such as ours. The club's policy does not cover out of pocket expenses and is underwritten by JLT.

### **10.2 Personal Insurance**

We recommend having your own private medical insurance for your child as a backup. All players play at their own risk and recognise that AFL is a contact sport where injuries may arise. The club also strongly recommends Ambulance cover