



# MY RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES AS A YOUNG PERSON INVOLVED IN FOOTY

## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IN FOOTY?

As a young person, you have rights, lots of them.

They are called the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, check them out!

Having rights makes sure that you are safe and protected doing the things you love, like playing footy!

We want all kids who participate in footy to be safe, feel safe, play safe. Here are some of those rights that relate to footy:

### The right to:

- be treated fairly, no matter what your cultural background, gender or sexuality, or if you have a disability
- be safe from harm or abuse from your peers or an adult in the footy community
- have a say about things that are important to you, and be taken seriously
- have privacy when you are getting changed or showering at events or trips, or just after a game
- choose if you want to have your photo taken or have it shared on the internet
- have your personal information protected and not shared without you and your family knowing.

## DEFINITIONS

**A Child:** someone involved in footy who is 12 years or younger – usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

**A Young Person:** someone involved in footy who is between the ages of 13 and 18 years old – usually a player but could also be an umpire or in another role at the club, or a sibling or child of a player.

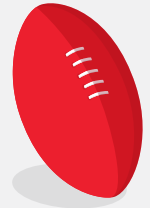
**Adult:** someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18 – this could be a coach, manager, umpire, club official, AFL staff member, volunteer, and/or a parent.





## WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES IN FOOTY?

With rights, come responsibilities, but you have probably heard that before. Like school, or work, you are responsible for your own behaviour and how it impacts others around you. When it comes to behaviour in footy, remember to:



**PLAY FAIR** Show respect to everyone around you – peers, coaches and umpires.

**PLAY SAFE** Prioritise safety, yours, and the people around you, always.

**PLAY KIND** Be inclusive, patient, and welcoming, especially to newcomers.

Pretty straight forward huh!?

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I DO?

If we all just followed the rules, everyone would be ok, right? Of course! But life just isn't that simple. Young people often have a bit going on for them, and it is easy to forget the rules some times. Here are three easy steps to keep you in check.

### 1 CHECK YOURSELF

Check your own behaviour is in line with your responsibilities and that you are not the reason why someone else may be feeling unsafe, uncomfortable, unwelcome, or excluded.

### 2 CHECK YOUR MATE

Check in on your teammates and your other footy friends, make sure they are doing ok and offer to help where you can.

### 3 SAY SOMETHING

If you have concerns about your safety or the safety of another child or young person, or have seen or heard something that just doesn't feel right, it is important you say something:



Speak to a parent, carer, family member or trusted adult like a coach, team manager, umpire, official or club representative.



Write down your concerns and pass them onto your club or association via email or letter.



Use this QR code to raise a concern with the AFL.



For any safeguarding queries email [childsafety@afl.com.au](mailto:childsafety@afl.com.au)  
Contact Kids helpline on 1800 55 1800 (it's free)  
or [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

As always if anyone is in immediate danger contact the police on **000**

**Remember, we want all children and young people in footy to be safe, feel safe, play safe.**

**IMPORTANT** – If your behaviour is impacting on another person's safety and wellbeing, and it has been discussed with you and it continues, or if it is really serious, there may be consequences. This can include warnings from a coach right down to notifying the police.