



# SAFE & UNSAFE BEHAVIOURS IN FOOTY

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT OF ADULTS AT FOOTY?

You should feel safe and welcome while you are at footy, before, during and after the game, on and off the field. We want you to be safe, feel safe, play safe.

All adults are expected to help make this happen by behaving in a way that is safe, appropriate, makes you want to keep coming back and gives you the best chance to succeed.

**You need to know what these behaviours are, because you can't say something if you don't know what it looks like.**

## AFL SAFEGUARDING CODE OF CONDUCT

### ✓ SAFE BEHAVIOURS

#### Contact

Physical touch that is normal for footy and happens in front of other people and WITH your consent.

This can include tackling, showing skills and techniques, preventing injury, or high fives or a pat on the back to celebrate a win.

#### Communication

Guidance that is positive, helpful, and focused on your footy game, not you as a person.

Language that is calm and kind and that you can easily understand.

Online communication that includes your parents/ carers and is used with the whole team.

#### Boundaries

When an adult has safe, or good boundaries it means they:

- have made sure you understand their role
- act professionally – friendly but not a friend
- treat everyone in the team fairly
- follow the rules with things like sharing information about you, or only taking photos of you with your permission and when it is about footy
- always behave appropriately when around you and the other young people that they are responsible for.



### ✗ UNSAFE BEHAVIOURS

#### Contact

Any touch you don't consent to, or that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Any touch that seems sexual, involves your private parts, or embarrasses you.

Any touch that happens in a private place like the changerooms or a car.

#### Communication

Any language or communication that leaves you feeling uncomfortable, worried, scared or embarrassed.

Any comment online or in person that is sexual or private.

Any contact with you that happens outside of footy related activities (like late at night), via private chat platforms (like socials or texting), is over the top or excessive, or is about personal stuff, nothing to do with footy.

#### Boundaries

When an adult has unsafe, or poor boundaries, it means they:

- favour, isolate or single you out
- accept or give gifts to you or your family
- contact you outside of football activities, including through social media
- offer to help you and your family out with things that are outside of their role (help around the house / money / buying them things).



## SAFE BEHAVIOURS

### Supervision

Adults who are responsible for supervising you in footy should:

- always know where you are at all times
- give you privacy to use the bathroom or change rooms, but still make sure that you are safe
- wait with you until you have been collected
- only offer you a lift if they have their licence and their car is insured and your family and another person from the club know about it.

### Environment

A safe environment for young people at footy is:

- a space that people from different backgrounds can access and are comfortable to access
- footy trips that are fun but still safe for young people to attend
- camps where you are given privacy, made to feel welcome and are able to call home when you need to
- change facilities in grounds that are appropriate for any gender
- online spaces where communication is open and transparent and other adults can monitor.



## UNSAFE BEHAVIOURS

### Supervision

Adults who are responsible for supervising you in footy should:

- not be distracted by their phones or other people
- not let young children use a bathroom without making sure there are no risks first
- never leave you alone, even if you are late to be picked up
- drive young people around without permission or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

### Environment

An unsafe environment for young people at footy is:

- a space that is difficult for young people with disabilities to access or where people from different cultural backgrounds feel left out
- footy trips that are boozy or involve drugs and easily get out of hand with no adults keeping an eye out for you or the other young people
- camps where you are punished, humiliated or made to feel homesick and uncomfortable
- change facilities in grounds where there is no privacy and children, young people and those who identify as transgender or non-binary feel unsafe
- online spaces where communication is one to one, personal and used to share inappropriate material not related to footy.

## 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**