

La Trobe University Soccer Club



MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

The Member Protection Policy is designed to protect the welfare, wellbeing, and health of everyone involved in sport at La Trobe University Soccer Club. It provides clear definitions of abuse, bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, victimisation and vilification, along with information on how to report these behaviours.

Our commitment

Safety and Wellbeing of Participants

- Prioritise the physical, emotional, and psychological safety of yourself and others.
 - *Example: Check in with teammates and speak up if you or someone else feels unsafe.*
- Recognise and respect the rights, identities, and dignity of all participants, regardless of age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality, or religion.
 - *Example: Use inclusive language, respect preferred pronouns, and support teammates regardless of their background or skill level.*
- Follow sport-specific injury management and return-to-play guidelines.
 - *Example: Do not hide injuries or play against medical advice to avoid worsening your condition.*
- Understand that safeguarding applies to everyone in the sport environment, not just children or those in playing roles.
 - *Example: Respect coaches, officials, and volunteers and contribute to a safe culture.*
- Actively reinforce the values of safety, inclusion, and fun in your interactions.
 - *Example: Support teammates with encouragement and respect club values.*
- Always use respectful and supportive language when engaging with teammates, coaches, officials, or spectators.
 - *Example: Avoid using aggressive, offensive, or discriminatory language.*
- Avoid behaviours that put yourself or others at risk.
 - *Example: Do not engage in reckless play, roughhousing or physical aggression on or off the field.*
- Be mindful of your social media presence and its impact on others.

- *Example: Avoid sharing harmful or disrespectful content related to your club, teammates, or opponents.*

Uphold the Integrity of Sport

- Play by the rules and respect officials' decisions, even when you disagree.
 - *Example: Accept the referee's call without argument and focus on playing.*
- Recognise that participation in community sport is about enjoyment, development, and teamwork, not just winning.
 - *Example: Celebrate effort and progress, not just scoring goals or winning games.*
- Be accountable for your actions on and off the field.
 - *Example: If you make a mistake, take responsibility and learn from it.*
- Acknowledge there is a zero-tolerance approach to the use of illicit drugs, performance-enhancing substances, or excessive alcohol consumption.
 - *Example: Do not participate under the influence of drugs or alcohol.*

Be a Positive Team Member

- Support and encourage your teammates.
 - *Example: Celebrate their successes and lift them up during challenges.*
- Follow team rules, attend training, and respect your coach's guidance.
 - *Example: Communicate if you are unavailable and give your best effort in every session.*
- Contribute to a positive and inclusive team culture.
 - *Example: Help new teammates feel welcome and include everyone in activities.*
- Respect club equipment, facilities, and resources.
 - *Example: Clean up after yourself and take care of shared gear.*
- Show respect and care in all communications with your teammates and coaches, both in person and in online environments.

Prohibited Conduct

The following actions and behaviours are breaches of our Club Policy:

- Abuse including physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse
- Bullying and the inappropriate use of power, where actions are repeated and deliberate
- Harassment, including unwanted behaviours which are reasonably likely to cause harm.
- Sexual harassment and sexual offences.
- Discrimination including both deliberate and inadvertent, direct or indirect discrimination based on a Protected Characteristic, such as:
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Race or ethnicity
 - Sex, sexual orientation or gender identity
 - Religion
- Victimisation of anyone who chooses to make a complaint, or plans to.
- Vilification based on a Protected Characteristic.

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Breach of Code of Conduct Procedures

If you breach this code, our organisation will take the following steps:

Step 1: Educative response – you will be reminded of the expected behaviours and how your behaviours breached the code of conduct. You will be asked to review the policies and be directed towards relevant education as warranted.

Step 2: Written warning – A formal letter (warning) will be provided to you, detailing the breach and any required corrective actions.

Step 3: Disciplinary action – Our organisation will explore the imposition of a suspension or termination under the rules of our club/league constitution or related policies.

Breaches of this code of conduct will be managed by the Club's Executive Committee.

I have read and understood this Player Code of Conduct and commit to upholding these principles as a member of La Trobe University Soccer Club.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If under 18 years of age, parent/guardian consent:

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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