



## **Player Safety Policy**

***Yarra Glen Junior Football & Netball Club seeks to provide a safe playing environment for its players and spectators.***

### **Medical notification**

At the start of the season each player must submit a medical form.

The player (or parents) must advise of any conditions that would place the player at risk or could impede his/her ability to participate.

The medical forms are retained by the Team Manager and destroyed at the end of the season.

Players (or parents) must notify their coach and or trainer of any changes in circumstances (injury / health problem etc) that could place the player at greater risk.

### **Injuries**

The health and safety of the Club's players, personnel and spectators is the Club's most important priority and overrides any other consideration including winning games and finals.

There may be occasions during the season when injuries occur.

All teams must have a qualified Trainer (Refer Section 10.8). At least one parent or guardian of each child is expected to remain at training and during the games, to attend to any off site medical attention that their child may need.

Before games the responsibility for a player's capacity to play the relevant game rests with the player's parents/guardian. Although the relevant Trainer and coach may be consulted concerning this issue, any decision must ultimately be made by the player's parents/guardian.

During games the responsibility for the health and safety of players rests with the Trainer together with the player's parents/guardian. Any decision concerning this issue must ultimately be made by the player's parents/guardian together with the Trainer.

During games in the event of an injury or injury/health concern other Club personnel including coaches and assistant coaches are to be guided by the Trainer and the player's parents/guardian concerning the player's capacity to play the game and any decision concerning this issue must ultimately be made by the player's parents/guardian together with the Trainer, however in the event of a difference of opinion the final decision rests with the trainer.

It is the responsibility of the Trainer to administer any medications or substances/sprays etc but consent must be provided as set out below.

Except in the case of an emergency, no medications, medical assistance or substances/sprays etc are to be provided by the Trainer to a player without the consent of the player's parents/guardian. To avoid doubt this does not include minor and routine assistance to a player such as stretching/rub down/ice assistance for a muscle strain or similar type of injury which may be provided as a matter of course and without the need for consent of the player's parents/guardian. Strapping/taping should be completed by an allied health professional prior to the game. The players parent/guardian must provide consent to any strapping/taping undertaken by the trainer.

The cost of transportation and/or medical treatment is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.



Any player who is sent to an hospital for treatment as a result of an incident at a game or training, must provide a medical certificate stating that they are fit to play, prior to resuming training / playing.

All injuries are to be reported to the Trainer in the first instance. Serious injuries (i.e. those that may require medical treatment) should be reported to the Team Manager who should then inform the Club Secretary within 24 hours.

Team managers are provided with accident forms in their kits.

If the Coach or Trainer is concerned about a player's fitness they may require the player to provide a medical certificate stating that they are fit to play, prior to resuming training / playing.

### **Concussion**

The most important element in the management of concussion is the welfare of the player in the short and long term.

The Club recommends a conservative approach to the management of concussion. In particular, the Club adopts the key AFL concussion management principle, namely "If in doubt, sit them out."

Any player who suffers a concussion or suspected concussion as a result of an incident at a game or training, **must** not return to the field.

If a coach or trainer suspects a player may have suffered a concussion at a game or training, s/he **must** require the player to provide the coach or trainer a medical certificate stating that the player is fit to play, prior to resuming training / playing.

Any player who suffers a concussion or suspected concussion away from the field **must** provide the coach or trainer with a medical certificate stating that the player is fit to play, prior to resuming training / playing.

The priority for players is the successful return to learning and school before returning to playing."

### **Helmet Policy**

The wearing of helmets is at the discretion of the individual players and their parents.

### **Mouth guard Policy**

The wearing of mouthguards by all football players is compulsory. If a football player does not wish to wear a mouthguard, the parent and/or guardian of the player is required to correspond with the secretary to advise indicating that they understand that if an injury occurs that would have been prevented with the use of a mouth guard, the YGJNFC will not be liable for this.

### **Extreme weather**

When weather is inclement the coach will decide if training is to proceed and coaches will always defer to player safety.

If lightning is present at the commencement of training then training will not proceed until the lightning dissipates. Players and coaches should seek shelter. Parents should feel free to take their children home.

A coach should cancel training if s/he believes that weather conditions are unsuitable.

When the weather is extremely cold or inclement parents should decide if they want to subject their child to training in such conditions. The decision ultimately remains with the parents.

In heat conditions (pre and early season) parents should decide if they want to subject their child to training in such conditions. The decision ultimately remains with the parents.

Selection in the team for matches will be in accordance with the Club's policy on selection and game



time. Cancellation of training or non attendance due to severe weather conditions shall not be a factor in selection.

The OEFN umpire does have the right to defer or cancel a game due to extreme weather.

Parents are encouraged to remain at training and games, especially in times of extreme weather.

### **Ground safety**

The Coach should satisfy him/herself that the ground and weather condition are such that it is safe to play football.

If the Coach considers that the conditions are not safe, s/he should first consult with his/her team manager and the coach and team manager of the opposing team to discuss the matter.

If the Coach still considers that the conditions are not safe s/he should immediately raise the matter with the field umpire, although it should be noted that the OEFN does not give the umpires the responsibility of determining whether an oval is fit for play. However the umpire does have the right to cancel or defer the game due to extreme weather.

If the matter still can not be resolved s/he should immediately contact the Club President or a member of the Executive Committee who will liaise with the OEFN.

The Club will fully support a coach who determines and can demonstrate that the conditions are unsafe for football.

A parent or parents may determine that the conditions are not safe for their child and withdraw them from the game without fear of recrimination.

### **Trainers**

Each team must have a suitably qualified trainer in attendance for the duration of the game. In order to achieve this every trainer across all age groups should hold a current first aid and emergency response coordinator certificate.