



## AFL MASTERS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CODE OF CONDUCT

Effective 10 January 2025

### **Effective from**

10 January 2025

### **Applicable to**

This Code of Conduct is applicable to all people associated with AFL Masters Inc (AFLM) throughout Australia including all AFL Masters State or Territory Affiliates and their clubs. AFLM People are required to abide by the behaviour standards set out in this Code of Conduct and report any behaviours that do not comply with it in accordance with the AFLM Safeguarding Children and Young People Complaints and Reporting Procedure (Complaints and Reporting Procedure).

### **Purpose of the AFLM Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct**

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to outline the type of behaviour that AFL Masters requires from all people associated with AFLM towards and in the presence of children and young people. The AFLM Child Safeguarding and Vulnerable People Wellbeing Policy (Policy) sets out such requirements in further detail and should be referred to in the first instance if any AFLM Person has any queries about this Code of Conduct. The definitions set out in the Policy apply to this Code of Conduct.

### **General Principles**

All AFLM People must in the course of their employment or engagement by the AFLM or an AFLM State Entity:

- treat all children and young people with respect and promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, children and young people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children and young people with a disability and children and young people who identify as LGBTI+, transgender and/or non-binary;
- ensure that all children and young people are appropriately supervised while participating in an AFLM program while respecting the privacy of children and young people;
- wherever possible ensure that another adult is present when working near or with children and young people;
- use disciplinary strategies that are fair, respectful and appropriate to the developmental stage of the children or young people involved;
- limit all interactions with children and young people to the confines of official duties;
- wherever possible ensure that all email, text messages and other forms of communication sent to a child or young person are copied to their parent/carer;
- ensure that approval has been obtained from a child or young person's parent/carer prior to any photograph, livestream or film being taken of a child or young person;
- ensure that any photograph, livestream or film taken of a child or young person is taken in circumstances that are directly relevant to the child's or young person's participation in an AFL program and the child or young person is appropriately dressed and posed;

- complete a risk assessment for any AFLM program that involves children or young people prior to carrying out that AFLM program;
- immediately disclose any charges or convictions affecting their suitability to engage with children and young people to the AFLM National President and the AFLM National General Manager
- immediately report any concern for the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person, or a suspected breach of the Policy or this Code of Conduct, in accordance with the Complaints and Reporting Procedure.

All AFLM People must not in the course of their employment or engagement by the AFLM or an AFLM State Entity:

- engage in any form of sexual behaviour with or in the presence of children or young people;
- engage in any other form of behaviour that may reasonably be considered to be child abuse, including grooming a child or young person;
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person, or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do themselves;
- take disciplinary action involving physical punishment or any other form of treatment that could reasonably be considered as degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating;
- use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, intended to humiliate or is culturally inappropriate;
- consume alcohol, illicit drugs, tobacco or vape when working with any children or young people;
- give a gift to a child or young person engaged in an AFL program, activity or service without the permission of their Department General Manager and the child's or young person's parent/carer;
- transport any children or young people without the permission of their Department General Manager or person delegated with their authority and the child's or young person's parent/carer;
- arrange contact, including online contact, with children or young people outside of the AFL's programs, activities or services; or use any computers, mobile phones, video cameras, cameras or social media to exploit or harass children, or access child exploitation material.

### **Breach of Code of Conduct**

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will be considered a breach of the Policy, may be considered serious misconduct and may result in formal investigation, disciplinary action including restriction or suspension of duties or termination of employment.

In some situations, a breach of this code may result in detriment to AFLM and the AFLM Person may be liable for their actions under civil and criminal laws.

If an AFLM Person suspects that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred or will occur, he or she must report that breach in accordance with the Complaints and Reporting Procedure. In some circumstances, such a disclosure may qualify for protection in accordance with the Whistleblower Policy. All reports will be acted upon and kept confidential.

### **Review of Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct**

The Board will review this Code annually to ensure it remains consistent with AFL Masters' values.

Revised 10 January 2025