

Lilydale Junior Football Club Incorporated

By-Laws

(Appendix to the Constitution)

1. Introduction

These By-Laws are made under the authority of the Lilydale Junior Football Club Incorporated Constitution and shall be read in conjunction with that Constitution. They are designed to provide guidance on the administration, coaching, team management, awards, and codes of conduct within the Club. Where a conflict arises between these By-Laws and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

2. Coaching Appointments

A Coaching Appointment Panel comprising at least three (3) of the following shall be formed each season: President, Secretary, Vice President, Treasurer, and Head of Football Operations. All coaching positions shall be declared vacant at the end of each season and will be publicly advertised. Returning coaches must reapply and participate in the selection process on equal footing with new candidates. All appointed coaches must agree to abide by the Club's Coaching Guidelines, Codes of Conduct, and the rules of the governing League and AFL Victoria.

If at any stage, there is a breach of the Coaches Code of Conduct (see 6.3 of these bylaws) the Committee has the powers to suspend or remove a coach from their role. This process will not include removing their membership from the Club, if they are deemed a member. Any removal of a membership will be managed using Division 2 — Disciplinary Action of the Lilydale Junior Football Club Constitution.

3. Teams and Player Management

The Club shall endeavour to field at least one (1) team in each League age group. Players shall compete in their age-appropriate division unless the Committee grants approval to play in a higher age group. Players playing in older age groups must not be displayed or represented as belonging to their younger age group.

Under 12 and below: All players must receive equal game time each match, except for injury or disciplinary reasons.

Under 13 and above: All players must play a minimum of half a game in each home-and-away match. Players should not be rostered off for more than two (2) games per season unless due to injury or disciplinary reasons.

Finals: Game time is at the coach's discretion, but all players should be provided a reasonable opportunity to participate.

4. Best and Fairest Awards

There will be no Best & Fairest voting for Non-Competitive Teams. All Under 8's, 9's & 10's players will receive a participation award at the end the season Presentation Day.

The Head Coach of each team will select a total of 5 (five) players that will be awarded end of season awards, from the below criteria:

- Best Team Player
- Coaches Award
- Most Improved
- Most Determined
- Most Disciplined

For all competitive age groups, votes for the top five (5) players shall be recorded after each home-and-away match. The Team Managers are responsible for collecting and securely storing the votes. A vote count shall occur at the completion of the home-and-away season, attended by at least one Committee Member and at least 2 of the following; Coach, Assistant Coach, and Team Manager. Awards shall be presented as follows for each team (competitive):

1. Best & Fairest Player
2. Runner-Up Best & Fairest
3. Third Best & Fairest
4. Fourth Best & Fairest (Most Consistent)

Each team may also select three (3) of the following additional awards:

- Best Team Player
- Most Improved
- Coach's Award
- Most Determined
- Most Disciplined

Under 17 teams shall present the Ryan Donald Memorial Trophy, awarded in consultation with the Donald Family and coaching staff.

There will also be the following 2 (Two) awards

- 'Leading Goal Kicker' (as determined by statistics - including Finals)
- 'Best Backman' and 'Back woman' (coach to select)

If a competitive playing side competes in Finals, there will also be a "Best Player in Finals" as voted.

LJFC will also present a trophy (or medal) for any players who celebrate a games milestone throughout the season.

5. Best Club Person Award

An annual Best Club Person Award shall be presented by the Committee to recognise outstanding service to the Club.

Nominees should demonstrate:

- Commitment to the benefit of the whole Club;
- Tireless voluntary service without expectation of reward;
- Conduct that reflects positively on the Club;
- Volunteering without financial gain;
- Outstanding commitment and loyalty;
- Being an excellent ambassador for the Lilydale Junior Football Club.

6. Codes of Conduct

The Lilydale Junior Football Club upholds the highest standards of behaviour and integrity. All players, officials, coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to adhere to the following Codes of Conduct, which form part of the Club's By-Laws and must be complied with at all times.

6.1 Players and Officials Code of Conduct

Each Player and Official must:

- Not bring the game of Australian Football, the AFL, or the League or the Club into disrepute;
- Participate in competition matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football;
- Respect the spirit of the game and fair play;
- Display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, officials, parents, and spectators;
- Never argue with or dispute a decision of an official or umpire;
- Control emotions, and not engage in verbal abuse, swearing, sledging, or deliberate provocation;
- Comply with AFL and League rules, regulations, and this Code of Conduct;
- Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;
- Contribute to a safe, respectful, and inclusive sporting environment;
- Cooperate with Club officials, coaches, and teammates;
- Participate for enjoyment and benefit;
- Respect the rights and dignity of all participants;
- Not engage in bullying or inappropriate use of social media;
- Use club and opposition facilities respectfully.

6.2 Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct

Each Parent and Supporter must:

- Support participants and enjoy the match;
- Encourage participation but never force it;
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning;
- Not ridicule mistakes or losses;

- Lead by example and respect all involved;
- Recognise and respect volunteers;
- Not publicly criticise umpires—concerns should be raised privately;
- Avoid remarks based on race, religion, gender, or ability;
- Respect facilities and equipment;
- Not engage in verbal or physical abuse;
- Condemn violence in all forms;
- Not enter the field of play unless authorised;
- Not engage in bullying or inappropriate use of social media.

6.3 Coaches Code of Conduct

Each Coach must:

- Respect all individuals and refrain from discriminatory practices;
- Abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game and the rules of the Club and League;
- Be reasonable in demands on players, considering health and wellbeing;
- Refrain from personal or physical abuse;
- Ensure players receive equal opportunities where applicable;
- Monitor player safety and follow medical advice;
- Stay informed on coaching principles and player welfare;
- Promote and model fair play and respect;
- Foster a positive environment prioritising development over winning;
- Reject performance-enhancing substances and comply with AFL anti-doping policies;
- Understand that breaches of this Code may result in disciplinary action.

7. Breaches of the Codes of Conduct

The committee can suspend or remove a coach from their role if there is a breach of the Coaches Code of Conduct, as those roles are not deemed to include membership to the club. Any other alleged breach of the Lilydale Junior Football Club Codes of Conduct that involves a member shall be managed and resolved in accordance with Division 2 — Disciplinary Action of the Lilydale Junior Football Club Constitution. This ensures all matters are handled fairly, transparently, and in line with the principles of natural justice.

The process includes:

- The right of the individual or party concerned to be informed of any allegations;
- The opportunity to respond and be heard;
- A fair and impartial determination by the Committee; and
- Appropriate outcomes, which may include counselling, warnings, suspension, or termination of membership.

All members, parents, players, coaches, officials, and volunteers are expected to cooperate with the disciplinary process, with the overarching goal of maintaining the safety, integrity, and positive culture of the Lilydale Junior Football Club.

8. Policies

The Committee may establish club policies or adopt policies of the AFL, AFL Victoria and/or the EFNL. Those policies will be expected to be implemented and adhered to by all club members.

9. Communications Tool

The club will utilise a consistent communication tool for all teams. Committee oversight is required. The current communication tool is Heja.