



Established 1957

# PENNANT HILLS SOCCER CLUB

## Code of Conduct

This Code is in addition to the rules of soccer and of GHFA. It is designed to maximise the enjoyment of all players and officials. It attempts to outline the spirit in which the club is run, rather than seeking to be a precise or complete legal document.

1. Coaches, managers and committee members are volunteers. Treat them with respect and support them. **Do not publicly criticise** them – if there is a problem, deal with it privately or contact the President or your Age Manager. **Respect referees** and their assistants, be they licensed or just filling in.
2. **Committee members** are elected at the AGM. Players who have attained age 18, and parents or guardians of players under age 18, are eligible to vote at AGMs provided they have met all financial commitments to the club.
3. **Coaches are appointed by the Committee**, usually through an Age Manager. Appointments are made with reference to coaching skills and personalities available, and the perceived needs of each team. Most often it will be hoped that the coach will be the parent of a player within the team. There are no automatic “rights”, “turns” or rosters for coaching positions, but particular consideration may be given to the previous season’s coach. Coaches and potential coaches are encouraged to attend at least the Level 1 coaching course (now called Youth License).
4. Players **registered on or before Registration Day** will be given preference in forming teams. Prior-year players registering by registration day will be given preference over new registrations. Later registrations will only be accepted if positions are available, and on a first-come first-served basis.
5. Players will normally be registered in the **youngest age group** for which they are eligible to play. In order to manage player numbers, the Committee may allow or request players to play a year above their normal age. Once a player has joined an age group (eg a year above), efforts will be made in the subsequent year to allow them to remain in that team if they so desire.
6. Players in **U/6 to U/8 will be allocated to teams so as to play with friends**, as far as possible. An U/8 “Blue” team may be selected on merit some years.
7. **U/9+ teams will be selected on merit** by the Grading Committee and Age Manager, who will normally take advice from current and previous coaches and managers. Performance at grading day, training and trial matches will be considered. If a selection is marginal, preference will be given to retaining prior-year team players.
8. Players whose **club registration or payment is incomplete** will not generally be permitted to play in competition matches. (Players whose GHFA registration is incomplete must **never** play in a competition match.)

9. Each player in a team has paid the same fee to play, and Penno club policy is that all players should get **the same game time** (except for Premier League, or absences due to injury, unavailability or suspension). Coaches are responsible for ensuring this occurs, either in each game or over a period of weeks. If it is not done for each game, the coach should explain this to the team, and keep a written record of every player's "bench" time. Any intention to deviate from this policy must be discussed with the President.
10. **Rewards** for performance in junior teams should be limited to "player of the week" type awards, available to all players and distributed widely within the team. The club does not support payments or awards for scoring goals, as this can be detrimental to the team's performance and team spirit.
11. Coaches need to ensure they do **not favour any player**, particularly their own children, and guard against even a suspicion that this is occurring. An unfortunate consequence of this is that coaches' children seem to substitute frequently as goalkeeper, but the club sees this as better than the coach's son always playing striker. (This issue may be less important from U/13+ as players can speak up for themselves and also tend to specialise in positions.)
12. Sideline **barracking should always be positive**. Any criticism should be in private. The Manager and Coach are responsible for ensuring that Penno parents and friends comply with this. Applauding good play from the opposition helps to create a good atmosphere, reflects positively on the Penno club, and is a good example to our own players too. Do not antagonise opposition players or supporters. Any problem with opposition players, supporters or a referee should be notified to the Penno club Committee.
13. Any **yellow or red cards** or citations received by a player must be notified to the Committee and Age Manager, together with a short report or description of the cause. The Committee may provide assistance in defending the charge, if appropriate, but also reserves the right to take action independent of GHFA.
14. If your team is a few goals up and winning comfortably, consideration could be given to swapping player positions, particularly in younger teams. This will help in the development of player skills, give different players a chance of scoring a goal, and may also prevent the opposition from becoming demoralised if the score blows out. Although there is **no offside rule in minis**, do not take unfair advantage of that absence.
15. All **club equipment** including shirts, balls, bibs and ID cards must be returned at the end of the season. No trophies, medallions or other awards will be presented to teams whose equipment has not been returned.
16. It is every player's responsibility to **substitute** for a higher graded or age Penno team that is short of players, provided this does not leave their own team with less than 11 players, and up to the maximum of 5 times per season. This will be particularly important in school holidays. The alternative to this expectation is that teams would have to have more registered players, and hence all players would have less time on the field.

17. Each team will be asked to man the **canteen for one Saturday** during the season. The club does not do fundraising, but does expect each parent to help at the canteen. Families who can not help for at least 1 hour on their allotted day (other than coaches, managers and committee members) should donate \$10.00 to the canteen fund (Managers to collect this). Jan.2006