

## Code of Conduct Policy

***A successful season at Thornleigh Thunder is when your child or teenager wants to play again next season.***

Children's sport is an important part of Australian society. However, it is well documented that many children drop out of sport when they reach their teen years because they no longer find their sport enjoyable. Accompanying this lack of enjoyment is the pressure, and sometimes, abuse from coaches, managers and parents to perform in a particular manner. We believe all members of the club can ensure that the experience is positive by adopting the following guidelines:

### **Coaches**

- Ensure the child is active and involved at all training sessions.
- Adopt the approach that focuses on the children enjoying themselves.
- Focusing on the development of skills for each individual.
- Refrain from abusive shouting, direct criticism, groans and hysterical instructions.
- Promote having fun, making friends, learning skills and feeling good about their efforts.
- Motivate players and be competitive by focusing on personal improvements and enjoyment rather than the competition or the result of games.
- Correct the mistakes made in games by individuals at training in an indirect manner.
- Develop team respect for the ability of team mates, opponents and judgement of officials.
- Get involved with the parents; encourage their help and participation. Take time to understand them and communicate your expectations, role and responsibilities.

### **Parents**

- Understand the expectations and responsibility of coaches, managers and officials.
- Support and be of assistance to managers and coaches.
- Support and promote the same guidelines as the coach.
- Please do not criticise or shout abusive instructions to any child from the sidelines. Give controlled positive encouragement and praise of individual or team efforts.

We should all acknowledge that game day is for fun and enjoyment of the kids. However, we can share it with them and their families by making it a positive and exciting experience.