

Normanhurst Eagles Parents Handbook

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Parent Code of Conduct

- Turn up to training 10 mins before training time
- If you are unable to make training, please let the coach / manager know ASAP
- Please respect our neighbours when parking on Harris Road and Bryan Avenue
- Remain in the spectator area during games
- Let coach's coach
- Keep comments positive to players, parents, officials, and coaches of either team
- Come to games sober and refrain from drinking alcohol or smoking at contests
- Cheer for your team
- Show interest, enthusiasm, and support for your child
- Be in control of your emotions
- Help when you're asked to by the coach / manager (BBQ Duty, Canteen, Setting Up / Dressing Down fields)

Be Involved but not TOO Involved

A healthy involvement is encouraged by both the club and your child. However, no coach wants to be or should be second-guessed by parents on strategy moves or other coaching decisions.

Signs of parents being too closely involved include these:

- You are overly concerned with the outcome of the game
- You spend a lot of time talking with the coach about the game plan, player skill levels, and the way the coach conducts practices and coaches games
- Your child has stopped enjoying the sport or has asked you to stop coming to games or practices
- You require your child to take extra practice

Be involved, show interest, help the coach where they need help, encourage your child, and enjoy the sport yourself!

Developing a Winning Perspective

Every decision parents make in guiding their children should be based first on what's best for the child, and then second on what may help the child win. Stated in another way, this perspective places Athletes First, Winning Second. We're not saying winning is unimportant. Winning, or striving to win, is essential to enjoyable competition. Pursuing victory and achieving goals are sweet rewards of sport participation. But they can turn sour if, through losing, you or your child lose the proper perspective also. An obsession with winning often produces a fear of failure, resulting in below average performances and upset children.

Building your Child's Self-Esteem

Building self-esteem in your child is one of your most important parenting duties. It's not easy, and it's made even more difficult in sport by the prevailing attitude of "winning is everything." Athletes who find their self-worth through winning will go through tough times when they lose. Building self-esteem in your child takes more than encouragement. You need to show your child unconditional approval and love. Don't praise dishonestly; children can see through that. No matter the number of mistakes your child may make, show the same amount of love and approval for them that you showed before the game.

Emphasizing Fun, Skill Development and Striving to Win

The reason you should emphasize fun is quite simple: without it, your child may not want to keep playing. Kids don't have fun when they stand around in practice or sit on the bench during games, when they feel pressure to win and don't improve or learn new skills. Conversely, they do have fun when practices are well organized, they get to play in games, they develop new skills, and the focus is on striving to win.

Normanhurst Eagles 5 Pillars

- **Everyone plays.** Everyone who registers is assigned to a team. During the season everyone receives equal practice time and should receive the same amount of game time.
- **Fair play.** Fair play is about more than playing by the rules. It's about you and your players showing respect for all who are involved in Soccer. It's about you being a role model of good sportsmanship and guiding your players to do the same. Remember, we're interested in developing children's character through sport.
- **Positive competition.** We believe competition is a positive process when the pursuit of victory is kept in the right perspective. Learning to compete is important for children, and learning to cooperate in a competitive world is an essential lesson of life. The "right perspective" means adults make decisions that put the best interests of the children above winning the contest.
- **Soccer for all.** Soccer is an all inclusive game. That means that children who differ in various characteristics are to be included rather than excluded from participation. We offer soccer for children who differ in physical abilities. We offer programs to all children regardless of race, gender, religion, or ability. We ask our teams to support and appreciate the diversity of children in our society and to encourage the children and their parents to do the same. We do not forfeit games; instead, we share players and proceed with planned games.
- **Soccer for fun.** Soccer is naturally fun for most children. They love the challenge of mastering the skills of the game, playing with their friends, and competing with their peers. Sometimes when adults become involved in children's sport, they over-organize and dominate the activity to the point of spoiling children's enjoyment of the sport. If we take the fun out of sport, we are in danger of our children taking themselves out of sport. Remember, that these sports are for the kids; make sure the kids are having fun.

Get Ready for Kick Off Checklist

- Register each player for the 2023 winter season -
- Attend grading (if applicable)
- Purchase the updated Normo Eagles socks and shorts - [UltraFootball](#)
- Check your boots and shinpads and update as required
- Match Shirts will be provided to the manager
- Training shirts - will also now be your "Away" shirt - these will be provided to your manager.
- Supporter Merchandise – Branded merchandise will be available at the canteen and Teamwear is available at [UltraFootball](#)
- Nominate a coach and manager once teams are formed
- Keep an eye out for info re: training - Training will commence last week of March.
- Sign up to Dribl for games notifications
- Sign up to Sportsblock for club communications
- Get ready for Kick Off - First weekend of April 2023
- Any issues through the season should be raised with the manager who can then communicate to the age coordinator
- Players not able to make your team scheduled practice times and games: We understand not all parents may be able to make scheduled practice times or games each week. If you are unable to make the practice time, please let your coach know in advance if possible.

Best Practices for Teams

During Practice

- Everyone should arrive early and prepared for practice
- Players should dress to participate
- If using Kano, coach / manager should be assisting. Training will be called off if no one available to assist
- Parents should stay around training rather than drop or dash
- Everyone should focus on being a positive teacher and participant

During Games

- Everyone should arrive early and prepared for games
- Everyone should encourage all children who are playing
- Remember: Children are here to have FUN