



Ellerslie AFC
Code of Conduct 2022



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Standard of Behaviour

It must be remembered at all times when involved in this sport that you are a representative of your club. This includes at training and from arrival to departure on game days whether at home or away.

This means we would expect and appreciate the highest standard of behaviour during these times. You must be aware that you are wearing and carrying club colours, emblems and gear which makes you easily identifiable as an Ellerslie AFC member and if there are any issues it is our club who gets recognised and judged and your Operating Committee are the ones that receive the complaints.

We would expect and appreciate that you respect and follow the rules of our club's Code of Conduct as well as any rules of clubs you visit. We would hope that you behave in a manner that you would wish to have returned in kind by other team members and visiting players, management and supporters. This includes respecting no alcohol signs in changing rooms as can jeopardise clubs' liquor licenses.

Any breaches in discipline or behaviour reported will be dealt with by either the club's or Northern Region Football disciplinary boards. If the behaviour is considered severe enough you or your team could have good behaviour bonds imposed on them, as could the club have them imposed against us for the same infraction to ensure no future transgressions. These bonds generally start from \$500.

There is more information on the disciplinary process under that heading.



Clubroom Etiquette

Please treat all of our club facilities and equipment with respect. The maintenance of these is an expense the club tries to keep to a reasonable level and general wear and tear is inevitable but wilful damage and irresponsible behaviour is not something we wish to see occur at the club.

This can be made easier by observing the following practices please.

- Please host and drink responsibly. We do not want our bar staff to have to stop serving or ask a member or guest to leave but they will for your safety and ours and also for the protection of our liquor license.
- Our bar staff are to be treated with respect at all times. Put yourself in their shoes, especially when it is busy.
- No alcohol to be taken outside the clubrooms.
- We are a club not a pub, so please tidy up your table before leaving.
- Please do the same for your opposition should you host them after a match.
- NO playing or training gear to be worn in the club at any time. If you cannot change at least put a tracksuit over the top and wear clean shoes please.
- We are a family club, so please be aware of your language when children are around.
- Children are more than welcome but please look after your own children and make sure they play safely and fairly with others.
- When outside, particularly at night please be respectful of our neighbours privacy and your keep your noise levels to a minimum.
- All guests, opposition teams, family and friends are welcome in the clubrooms. Please host them with respect and if you have any questions while at the club there is usually a committee member present who can answer any questions or make a note and get back to you as soon as they can.



Club Commitment

Our club wishes to achieve the highest possible results throughout our federation and wants to set the benchmark for competitiveness, achievement, results and sportsmanship. This can only be achieved with your assistance and commitment to these same goals.

When on the field, play the game to your best ability and with the spirit and attitude that this sport is legendary for.

When off the field, please respect the facilities, equipment, gear and surroundings you have been provided with, whether at home or away, and always represent Ellerslie A.F.C. with pride and passion.

Support the club whenever you can, whether as a player, a supporter, a spectator or while socialising. The facilities are there for you to utilize and we can accommodate most requests to use these as long as we are given sufficient warning and our lease allows for the appropriate conditions.

Teams are encouraged to come up to the club as often as they can. After trainings, games at home or even away if practical, and particularly if they wish to build a level of support for ventures of their own whether these are fundraising, team trips or social occasions they wish to run.



Disciplinary Procedures

First it should be noted that not all disciplinary procedures occur directly from games and these can be called for other breaches of club regulations should they be deemed serious enough. These can include post-match behaviour, clubroom behaviour, drug or alcohol issues related to the club or unsportsmanlike behaviour while representing the club at events, tournaments or social events.

It should also be noted that any person who agrees to fill the role of a match official, whether a qualified referee, Community Referee or as a volunteer on the day has the full support and endorsement of the club and the federation. If events occur during a game that they felt strongly enough about to bring to our attention or file a report either with us or the Federation would be accepted as the full and accurate account of events and subsequent disciplinary actions would be handled with these as the central evidence.

Most disciplinary procedures are handled by Northern Region Football (NRF) following a report either submitted by the opposition or the referee.

Depending on the severity of the incident, cases are either dealt with without a hearing and fines and suspensions applied or by a disciplinary hearing at which the accused player(s) are requested to attend before NRF disciplinary board.

According to FIFA rules the only grounds for appeal for misconducts issued are for mistaken identity or wrong on point of law. If it is a case of mistaken identity, then the actual offender needs to be identified.

If the matter is an internal one, the club has the right to carry out the same procedure and hand down its own fines or suspensions which we would then advise to NRF.

The penalties are at the discretion of either body. If it is felt necessary, a case could be heard by both the club and NRF.

Failure to attend or acknowledge the authority of these bodies can lead to further fines and penalties, suspension and/or banning from the game. These decisions are advised to NRF and the National body and are enforced nationwide and worldwide if required.

Yellow Cards

»» Cost - \$25

»» 5 Yellow cards = Automatic 1 game suspension

Red Card

»» Cost - \$75 per game suspended

»» automatic minimum one game suspension for next game and depending on card severity a longer suspension is possible as well as possible disciplinary hearing if required.

»» 2 Yellow Cards in **one** game = becomes a red card with automatic sending off and 1 game suspension for the next match.



Hosting & Visiting Responsibility

In the name of good sportsmanship we would request that at all times when playing, at home or away, you represent the club to the highest standards possible.

Away games

- »» Someone to introduce themselves to the opposition and inform them you have arrived, check what the arrangements are for changing, refereeing (rolling subs, assistant referee - doing a half each etc) and post-match.
- »» Be respectful of the referee and his decisions at all times. Remember, you may be required to referee the second half or the return match and would appreciate the same respect in return.
- »» Tidy up at the end of the game. Remove all drink bottles, rubbish, sock tape, mud etc from side of field, dug outs and changing rooms.
- »» If you have an after-match chilly bin, please do this discreetly and dispose of the empty bottles by taking them away with you. If you are asked not to have one by your host - respect this. It is a liquor license issue and we do not want to endanger any club's financial viability by causing problems in this area.
- »» Always go back to their clubrooms and support their bar, especially if you have a chilly bin. This is what many clubs depend on for survival and is something we would appreciate in return.
- »» There is nothing more annoying than seeing a visiting, or worse home team, sitting in the changing rooms having a beer and then not coming up the club afterwards. And keep it short. Vacate changing rooms within 30 minutes of your game end as likely changing rooms are needed for another team.

Home games

- »» Introduce yourself to the opposition when they arrive and let them know where the changing rooms are, what field they are on, who is refereeing, any rules that you will be enforcing on the day (rolling subs, how many etc) or help that is needed (assistant referee - half each etc)

- »» All of the “away” points above are still valid at home

- »» At the end of the game, please invite your opposition up to the clubrooms and host them while up there. Please do not go up and sit at opposite ends of the clubrooms – be socialable.

- »» The last team to play on each pitch at home must bring the nets etc back to the gear shed. If you play a home game at a satellite venue you must check to see if nets will be there and again if you are the last team you must bring them back to Michaels Ave. This is posted in the Team Manager’s page each week.

- »» Offer to do post match speeches. If on a first team game day this will be a part of the normal formalities but you may not get a chance to speak due to time constraints.

- »» Offer them a “Player of the Day” drink as a prize. See bar staff for this.



Managers Responsibilities

MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITIES

We would firstly like to thank all of those members who have agreed to be team managers but also ask that you follow some simple procedures to make yours, and the committee's lives a lot less complicated.

Please:

- Let team members know they are joining the club, not your team, and that they all have to pay a membership fee.
- Get all your team members to register online to ClubHub and get them to pay their fees early if you are not paying by team fee. The season starting is not a surprise so people should be budgeting to pay on time. Encourage them to access the discounted rate as it is a significant saving.
- Check if any of your team members have been red flagged by their previous club. If you have any players that are from overseas and never registered for a club in NZ before they may need an International transfer clearance (ITC). This can take up to 30 days to process so contact the Operations Director early to get on to this.
- Collect your team uniform from the club before the start of the season.
- Be aware of the colours of the teams when you are playing away. If there is a clash, you will need to take an alternate strip.
- Complete the match day line-up in COMET as an accurate record of who played in the game.

This is to protect you and your team members if any accusations are made. Cards are regularly checked for player registration verification so it is important to complete this properly.

Any fines for yellow cards, red cards, disciplinary issues or for not completing the match day line-up will be forwarded to you or the player individually concerned and expected to be paid immediately or within the timeframe given.



PATHWAYS

This section is probably more applicable to youth players but it is probably valuable for all who may be interested and striving for higher honours or a higher standard of competition to be aware of the clubs pathway.

The player pathway starts in the Youth age-grade divisions of the club with the Director of Coaching assessing players as they develop and progress. By the time they are at Under 17 level they are being targeted for further advancement within the club's senior ranks.

This includes consideration for selection in the Under 19 team that is selected from all eligibly aged players to attend the prestigious Napier Under 19 Tournament in Labour Weekend each year.

From here they would hopefully progress to pre-season training for consideration for selection in our reserve and 1st teams. If unsuccessful and if still age eligible they can continue in the age grades and try again the following season who hope to be called up as they progress through the year or as injuries require reinforcements.

Any player wishing to be considered for reserve or first team positions above these age grade limits should contact the NRFL coaching staff to determine when the pre season training times and locations are and commitment expectations. This is particularly important if you are hopeful of consideration for the end of season Under 19 tournament in Napier.

The first team coach has the overall say on this team and the process for selection should be discussed directly with him.



PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Most of a player's responsibilities have been set out in other sections of this document as a general club member but there are some more specific points for players in all teams to be aware of.

- All players must register on www.ellersliefootball.org.nz before they are eligible to play. This confirms to the club that you wish to play for Ellerslie AFC and commit to paying the fees for the registration.
- Please keep your contact information up to date with the club and your manager.
- Changes to fixtures happen occasionally so you should always check the NRF website on the morning of your match.
- Your behaviour on the park is regulated by the FIFA Laws of the game
- Learn the rules so that unnecessary arguments are avoided by false information or a misunderstanding or ignorance.
- Be respectful of all officials on the field whether they be qualified Referees, Community referees or your team mate, or the opposition, who has stepped up to perform the role. It is a thankless task made no more enjoyable by back chat and aggression. You do you or your team no favours by arguing or challenging a referee or assistant referee.
- Be a good sportsman/woman and play hard but fair.
- Enjoy playing the beautiful game!