**Note on policies**

This section is provided only as a guide to players, parents and supporters to assist in the understanding of the club’s polices, decision making process, codes of conduct disciplinary procedures and overall objectives. It should not however be treated as a definitive source of reference as the club reserves the right to make decisions that may over-rule outlined policy as assessed by the committee on a case by case basis.

**PARENT CODE**

* Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
* Remember, children are involved in organised sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
* Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
* Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
* Turn defeat into victory by helping your child work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
* Never yell at, or ridicule your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
* Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and members of the opposing team.
* Do not publicly question the umpire’s or linesmen’s judgment and never their honesty.
* Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children’s sporting activities.
* Recognise the value and importance of referees, volunteer coaches and club officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child.

**COACH CODE**

* Be reasonable in your demands on the young players’ time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
* Teach players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements which no-one should evade or break. Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity whenever possible.
* Avoid overplaying the talented players. The “just average” players need and deserve equal time.
* Remember children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
* Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
* The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the children.
* Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
* Follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
* Remember that children need a coach they can respect. be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
* Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

**PLAYER CODE**

* To promote the game of Association Football to the highest level in which The Club competes.
* Players are to represent The Club, both on and off the field in a manner which promotes The Club as a professional organization.
* Players are to set an appropriate example so as to encourage junior players to aspire to playing at the highest level within The Club or higher.
* Players are expected to take an active part in activities organised by The Club and support fellow players by fulfilling duties allocated to them.
* Players are encouraged to direct any concerns they may have to their appropriate team manager, player representative or a member of the committee.
* Players found in breach of the above ideals will be required to attend before an appropriate disciplinary committee.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

It is the Club’s objective to provide all junior team members with equal playing opportunity as part of the commitment to fair play. We understand that in registering to play for the Club, there is an expectation that players will not be discriminated against on any grounds in terms of the treatment they receive from the Club Officials, Coaches or Managers.

However, we do acknowledge that in competition soccer there will be individual occasions during the season when the performance of the players on the field or at training, may warrant appropriate management action by the Coach in the broader team interest. In all such circumstances, players and if appropriate, parents, are to be consulted if such action results in any removal or reduction of playing opportunities.

For age groups between under 8 years and under 17 years, there is an unlimited player interchange rule and this mechanism should be used to promote and achieve equal playing opportunity for team members. This may be achieved over the whole season, or game to game. Each player pays their registration fees and is entitled to receive this.

In Under 9’s and above it is accepted that players will begin to learn team skills and will play in more set positions. But opportunities to experience other positions should be encouraged.

However, we do acknowledge that in competition soccer there will be individual occasions during the season when the performance of the players on the field or at training, may warrant appropriate management action by the Coach in the broader team interest. In all such circumstances, players and if appropriate, parents, are to be consulted if such action results in any removal or reduction of playing opportunities.

**CLUB AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

Officials, Coaches, Players and Supporters of the Club will, through their actions, Promote, Encourage, Foster and Advance the game of Association Football (Soccer).

Members of The Club should direct their efforts towards The Club’s success.

The Club will endeavor to ensure there is effective management which will promote unity and common purpose.

The Club is to provide the necessary facilities, equipment and personnel so that the sporting and social needs of its members is achieved.

As a club we endeavor:

* To be consistently competitive that The Hahndorf Soccer Club should always be able to retain a position in the top 3 clubs of it’s division of the South Australian Amateur Soccer League and to always aspire for promotion to a higher level of competition.
* To provide the players and their families an environment at Hahndorf that can be regarded as home.
* Ensure that all current senior players are retained and confident in the future development of their soccer at Hahndorf.
* Encourage our colts to progress through the grades to the senior levels, and be proud to play for The Hahndorf Soccer Club.
* To respect the welfare of all players.
* To attract all players residing within the district, and to be prepared to target key players for positions unable to be filled adequately by current resources.
* To recognise that one of our prime responsibilities is to continue to ensure the development of juniors playing Association Football (Soccer) in our district.