



American Football South Australia (AFSA)

Coaching Policy

Policy Owner: AFSA Board of Management

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Next Scheduled Review: May 2028

Index

1. Policy Overview and Purpose
2. Underlying Principles
3. Scope and Application
4. Core Policy Requirements
5. Procedures / Processes
6. Breaches and Penalties
7. Enforcement and Responsibility
8. Related Policies
9. Policy Review and Approval

1. Policy Overview and Purpose

This policy establishes the minimum requirements, standards, and expectations for coaches operating within American Football South Australia (AFSA).

It ensures that all coaches are appropriately qualified, accredited, and compliant with safeguarding requirements to support player development, safety, and the integrity of the sport.

2. Underlying Principles

- Player safety and welfare is the highest priority
 - Coaches must be appropriately trained and accredited
 - Continuous development and education is encouraged
 - Safeguarding and child safety requirements must be met
 - Coaching standards must be consistent across all clubs
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3. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all individuals undertaking coaching roles within AFSA, including:

- Head Coaches
- Offensive Coaches
- Defensive Coaches
- Positional Coaches
- Assistant Coaches

This policy applies across all AFSA sanctioned activities, including training, matches, and representative programs.

4. Core Policy Requirements

4.1 Coaching Accreditation

The following accreditation requirements apply:

Major Coaching Roles (mandatory):

- Head Coach

- Offensive Coach
- Defensive Coach

These roles must complete recognised coaching accreditation, including:

- NFHS Coaching Football Course (or AFSA approved equivalent)
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Positional Coaches:

- Must complete Football Tackling certification (or AFSA approved equivalent)
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4.2 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

- AFSA may recognise equivalent coaching qualifications (e.g. USA Football or similar programs)
 - Where recognised, coaches may still be required to complete updated tackling certification
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4.3 Certification Requirements

- All coaches must upload relevant accreditation as part of registration
 - Certifications must be current and verifiable
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4.4 Concussion Awareness (Recommended)

- Coaches are strongly encouraged to complete concussion awareness training
 - This supports player safety and aligns with AFSA Concussion Policy requirements
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4.5 Working With Children Check (WWCC)

- All coaches must hold a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC)
 - WWCC must be recorded within the AFSA registration system
 - This is a mandatory safeguarding requirement
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4.6 Safeguarding Compliance

- All coaches must comply with AFSA safeguarding standards
 - Coaches must adhere to national child safeguarding frameworks where applicable
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5. Procedures / Processes

5.1 Registration Process

- Coaches must complete registration through the AFSA system
 - Required documentation includes:
 - Coaching accreditation
 - WWCC clearance
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5.2 Compliance Monitoring

- AFSA may audit coaching credentials at any time
 - Clubs are responsible for ensuring all coaches meet requirements
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6. Breaches and Penalties

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- Removal from coaching duties
 - Suspension from participation
 - Club sanctions where non-compliance is systemic
 - Referral to Tribunal for serious breaches
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7. Enforcement and Responsibility

This policy is enforced by:

- AFSA Board of Management
- Authorised AFSA officials
- Club administrators

Clubs are responsible for ensuring all coaches meet the requirements of this policy.

8. Related Policies

- Member Protection Policy
 - Code of Conduct Policy
 - Concussion Management Policy
 - Grievance & Dispute Resolution Policy
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9. Policy Review and Approval

This policy will be reviewed every two (2) years or earlier if required.

It will be assessed to ensure alignment with coaching standards, safeguarding requirements, and AFSA governance.