



# **NOVA YOUTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

**OUR COMMITMENT TO CREATING  
POSTIVE YOUTH FOOTBALL**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## 03 - 04

---

PURPOSE OF THE NOVA  
YOUTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP  
(YCC)

## 05 - 06

---

THE ROLE OF A PLAYER

## 07 - 08

---

THE ROLE OF A COACH

## 09 - 10

---

THE ROLE OF A MATCH  
OFFICIAL

## 11 - 12

---

THE ROLE OF A TECHNICAL  
DIRECTOR

## 13

---

THE ROLE OF A SPECTATOR

## 14 - 18

---

CLUBS ON BUILDING  
POSITIVE YOUTH FOOTBALL

# **PURPOSE OF THE NOVA YOUTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (YCC)**

---

The Nova Youth Club Championship (YCC) is a premier competition designed to bring together top-tier youth football teams, emphasising the holistic development of players, coaches, and match officials. At its core, the Nova YCC promotes a collaborative and respectful environment, ensuring the football community thrives collectively.

The Nova YCC recognises and rewards clubs that uphold best practices, focusing on comprehensive player development. This approach not only enhances individual skills but also cultivates positive behaviours that contribute to the overall growth and improvement of the sport, providing a clear developmental pathway for players.

The previous competition formats (Junior Premier League (JPL) and Junior State League (JSL)) often allowed players to move freely between competitions, leading to a blurred competitive structure. The Nova YCC introduces a clear and structured pathway, ensuring players selected within it follow a defined progression, fostering consistency and stability.

To reinforce commitment and reduce player movement between clubs, the Nova YCC enforces a regulation where players are restricted to one club per season. This change aims to ensure dedication to the club and maintain the integrity of the competition.

In an effort to further enhance the player experience, the Nova YCC introduces club incentives. These incentives reward clubs that implement best practices, such as player tracking, video recording, and meeting minimum coach qualification standards. By recognising these efforts, the Nova YCC encourages clubs to create the best possible environment for player development.

# PURPOSE OF THE NOVA YOUTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (YCC)

---

Football South Australia (FSA) and the participating clubs acknowledge their shared responsibility in ensuring a positive match day experience. Through collective commitment, all stakeholders can influence the game day atmosphere, making it respectful, inclusive, and enjoyable for all participants. Football should always centre around the joy of the game, underpinned by respect, inclusion, and leadership at its heart.

The opportunity to enhance the game day experience for everyone involved has never been greater. Together, we can create an environment where every player, coach, match official, and spectator thrives, contributing to the growth and success of youth football.

“Youth development isn’t just part of football, it’s the foundation. When we invest in the next generation, we secure the future of the game. We all share the responsibility to support our young players, create a positive environment, and structure that helps them thrive in the game” - Michael Carter – Football SA CEO





# THE ROLE OF A PLAYER

---

Match day is an opportunity for each player to express themselves and enjoy playing the game they love whilst contributing to the collective effort of the team. Players should always look and be encouraged to be brave in possession, have the courage to take risks and be the best they can be in the present moment.

Players should be role models for their teammates, opponents, and the community, their behaviour should reflect the club's values, fair play and the spirit of the game.

During matches, players should focus on their learning experiences, embracing the challenges presented in each match and possess a growth mindset always looking for opportunities to improve.

As representatives of the Club, players should foster a positive, respectful environment for everyone involved and take pride in representing their club, teammates and coaches.

Match day is for the players, let them play.

“Every game is a chance to learn, grow, and have fun. You go to training to improve yourself as a player, matchday is all about going out there and expressing yourself.” - Stefan Mauk, Adelaide United Captain (A-League)

“Match day is an opportunity to be competitive and showcase hard work and skill. For me, it’s the best day of the week” - Sian Dewey, Adelaide United Player (A-League Women)

# THE ROLE OF A PLAYER

---

“Training days are what set you up to perform on match day. The unpredictability of a match for a goalkeeper is what makes it great, a chance to test yourself as well as showcase your hard-work and ability” - Ethan Cox, Adelaide United GoalKeeper (A-League)

- The game is for the players
- Create a positive environment for all involved
- Effort - Energy - Engagement - Enjoyment - Excellence
- Be the best you can be!



# THE ROLE OF A COACH

---

The Coach is an important part of the game day experience but also the long-term development of the individuals in their care. The goal for all involved should be to enjoy game day and create a positive environment for all players to have fun playing the game they love.

The Coach should be the role model on match day. Controlled emotions and a supportive and positive approach always. This includes interactions with the opposition, officials and parents. Players often reflect the Coaches characteristics. You will often see players become irritated and argumentative if the Coach is displaying those emotions on the side-lines.

Players should be encouraged to express themselves and play without fear. We all make mistakes, and everyone will experience losing at some point. The coach's role is to help players learn and develop, encourage them to try their best and guide them positively through the challenging moments.

Coaches are encouraged to build a team around them to help create an optimal youth development environment with the support from the Club Technical Director.

‘Game day is for the players to play and implement what they have learnt throughout the week. Coaches should encourage players to be brave, get on the ball and try and find solutions themselves’

Richie Alagich, Football South Australia Lead Boys Development Coach

# THE ROLE OF A COACH

---

‘My experience has taught me that to help players develop creativity, as a coach we need to give them that opportunity to express themselves and make decisions without pressure of making a mistake and being told off’

Cristiano Dos Santos, Football South Australia Lead Girls Development Coach

- **Be a positive example**
- **Create a positive environment for all involved**
- **Humble in victory and gracious in defeat**
- **Accept mistakes**
- **Understand your players**





# THE ROLE OF A MATCH OFFICIAL

---

At Football South Australia, we are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all our participants, including referees. Referees are an essential part of our game. Their role is to not only ensure that the Laws of the Game are adhered to but also to ensure players are safe throughout the match.

Following on from the launch in 2024, we are continuing to champion the 'Respect Starts Here' campaign, an initiative designed to reinforce the safety and respect for our young match officials through the use of bright orange armbands for referees under the age of 18.



# THE ROLE OF A MATCH OFFICIAL

---

The bright orange armbands, worn by youth Match Officials under the age of 18, are a visual reminder that the referee is a minor and is developing their confidence and decision making skills each and every game.

Just like players, referees will occasionally make mistakes and, also like players, they will learn from these mistakes if supported rather than loudly criticised from the sidelines.

Things you can do to support referees - Get involved and lead by example:

- Say hello and thankyou to the Referee.
- Volunteer to be an Assistant Referee or Ground Steward. These roles help in supporting the referee with decision making and creating a positive experience for all
- Stop and Think - Display the behaviours you would want others to show your child if they were out there officiating.
- Talk to your child about respectful ways they could respond to decisions they don't agree with or are frustrated by (walk away, deep breathes, etc).
- When discussing the game afterwards, instead of focussing on the referee's mistakes, remind your child and others about how referees are developing their expertise and mistakes are part of learning.
- Participate in courses (Laws of the Game, club Assistant Referee course or even JFMO (Junior football Match Official) to increase your knowledge of the role and perspective of referees.

By following these steps, you're not only helping create a safer environment for young referees but also enhancing the game as a whole.

# THE ROLE OF A TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

---

The role of the club technical director is extremely important as they are responsible for the clubs vision and how it is being brought to life. Game day is the perfect opportunity for each club to show its best self and the Technical Director is there to bring everyone together.

Technical Directors should welcome opposition staff, players and parents and ensure everyone is safe and the environment is set for a positive match day experience for all involved.

Coaching the coaches should be a key focus of all technical directors on game day. Their support should be focused on the players learning experience and not influenced on the outcome of the game or be seen trying to instruct coaches to impact the result in any way.

The technical director should be an outstanding role model for the club and show positive behaviours for youth development for all to follow.

‘The technical director on game day should be there to support the coaches and ensure that the club is representing themselves respectfully and positively

Their role is also to watch and help everyone show proactive professional behaviour and the right attitude in making the consistent steps in getting success together’

Ernest Faber, Adelaide United, Technical Director

‘Game day is an opportunity for us to show our club values and my role is to guide all involved to help the players enjoy and learn from the experiences’

Mark Evans, South Adelaide, Technical Director



# THE ROLE OF A TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

---

- The game is for the players
- Coach the coaches
- Create a positive environment for all involved
- Work with opposition representatives
- Focussed on the bigger picture of youth development



# THE ROLE OF A SPECTATOR

---

## Role of the spectator in junior sport

Spectators play a vital role in creating a positive, fun, and safe environment for young players. Their job isn't to coach from the sidelines or focus on winning—but to encourage effort, celebrate enjoyment, and support development. That means smiling, clapping, and showing appreciation for all players, regardless of the score.

### Spectators should also:

Respect referees and their decisions.

Be role models of sportsmanship and respect.

Help make Football welcoming so players stay in the game longer.

Remember—just like you wouldn't watch your child through their school window, kids need space to grow, make mistakes, and enjoy learning the game.



# CLUBS ON BUILDING POSITIVE YOUTH FOOTBALL

---



*From the very first day of Adelaide Atletico, our commitment has been to create a safe and inclusive space for every player, and to guide our club with values that never waiver. Through the YCC elite pathway, we support young footballers to grow with purpose - technically, emotionally, and as people. Whether chasing a professional dream or finding joy in the game, every player is valued. And above all, we will never stop believing in those who thought it was too late, but come full of heart. - Lou Ricciuto, Chairperson*



*The opportunity for players move up the development pathway unrestricted by structural boundaries is crucial for their development. - Rep Giordano, Chairperson*



*At Adelaide City, we're not just building footballers – we're building people. Lumin and Veo represent our commitment to excellence, growth, and the future of our players. - Angelo Carrozza, President*



*We acknowledge that any Process Change that lifts Best Practices, ultimately has better results for the Club and Player. - Simon Panayi, President*



*At Adelaide Comets FC, we are proud to be part of the Youth Club Championship and remain committed to fostering a respectful, inclusive, and development-focused environment for all young players.*

*The introduction of the YCC hasn't been without its challenges, but it has provided a level of structure that has been beneficial in certain areas.*

*We continue to focus on supporting player growth while reinforcing the values we believe in fair play, resilience, and a positive matchday experience for everyone involved. - Jim Tsouvalas, President*



*The development of youth is critical to a strong future of our game and Adelaide Croatia Raiders is committed to continue being a strong Club to provide this talent pathway. - Ian Krivicic, President*





*The introduction of the Nova Youth Club Championship is a significant step forward for youth football in South Australia. At Adelaide Hills Hawks, we fully support a model that values player development, consistency, and integrity. This initiative provides a clear and positive framework for our young athletes to grow—on and off the pitch—and we're proud to be part of it. - **Warren Ortmann, President***



*Adelaide Jaguars Women's Football Club fully supports the long-term objectives of the newly formed YCC and is excited about the development opportunities this structure will offer to players, coaches, and referees. As a female-only club, we're proud to invest 100% of our resources into the growth of female players and to provide an environment where they can unlock their full potential. The YCC framework strengthens this commitment by offering a clear, defined pathway for our youth players to progress. - **Bronny Brooks, President***



*Being a part of the YCC has ensured our YPL teams compete against the (comparably) best clubs in our state, ensuring the highest possible standard of football every weekend. A strong and very competitive environment in every junior age group will help ensure the best possible pathway to our future senior teams. - **Stavros Parissos, President***



*Adelaide University Soccer Club is fully committed to the purpose of the Youth Club Championship which will a greater professionalism in clubs, giving a greater pathway for the elite players as they continue their journey into senior programs and beyond. - **Gay Wallace, President***



*The YCC will showcase the best Juniors that SA has to offer and will provide a framework for ongoing football development in clubs. - **Don Leombruno, President***



*The YCC has injected a fresh, exciting energy into junior football! This new challenge is already driving development and reigniting passion within the game. The palpable buzz within teams and the spark reignited in players are clear indicators of a brighter future for South Australian football!*

*We at The Cove FC are incredibly excited for what the future holds for both the YCC and our state's football landscape. - **Dean Nethercot - Junior Chairman***



*The Croydon Football Club will continue to support and drive the YCC competition in 2026 and beyond. - **Simon Gargaro, Chairperson***



*we strive for the best development of our young players  
we strive for strong community  
we strive for success - **Steven Kidd, President***



*We see this as a fantastic opportunity for the continued growth of football in South Australia. Elizabeth Grove is proud to be part of a structure that supports positive youth development and gives our players, coaches, and families a clear pathway to succeed both on and off the pitch. - **Tony Fuda, Chairman***



*We see this as a fantastic opportunity for the continued growth of football in South Australia. Elizabeth Grove is proud to be part of a structure that supports positive youth development and gives our players, coaches, and families a clear pathway to succeed both on and off the pitch. - **Robert Dawber, Chairman***



*It's a responsibility that belongs to all of us—coaches who inspire, referees who uphold fairness, parents who support from the sidelines, and players who bring passion and dedication to every match. The YCC competition structure creates an environment where young athletes don't just learn how to win—they learn how to lead, how to respect, and how to grow. - **Zoran Matic, Chairperson***



*Fulham United FC is proud to be part of the Nova Youth Club Championship. We are committed to developing players who demonstrate our core Club values - Humility, Effort, Ambition, Respect, and Teamwork - and strive to reach their full potential. The YCC structure enables our U13-U16 players and coaches to support one another and foster a stronger, united culture. - **Arthur Labrosciano, President***



*At Gawler Eagles, we're committed to building a strong, supportive football community. By joining the YCC program, we're empowering our coaches to lead with integrity, inclusiveness, and a passion for developing every player - on and off the pitch. - **Joe Ridant, President***



*The NOVA Youth Club Championship is a great stepping stone for young players to thrive in a semi-professional environment which enables them to succeed and prepare themselves for senior football. - **Dora Rinaldi, President***



*The Nova YCC assists clubs in setting a new standard for youth football by focusing on development and respect, ensuring the game grows in the right way, both on and off the pitch. - **Robbie Rende, President***



*At Modbury Jets Soccer Club, we proudly support the vision and values outlined in the Youth Club Championship (YCC) initiative. This document reflects everything we strive to instil in our players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters—respect, inclusion, and a shared commitment to positive football experiences. The YCC framework provides not only a clearer development pathway but also a culture where learning, growth, and enjoyment are placed above results. As a club, we welcome the expectations and responsibilities it outlines, and we stand ready to play our part in building a stronger, safer, and more inspiring future for youth football in South Australia. - **Jeff McCormack, President***



*At Vista we believe that our role is to prepare our juniors to continue within our club for the long term, ultimately preparing them for Senior football with us. This program will engage us to manage and review all facets of our junior development program in order to continually work on improving our Tier within the program. - **Darrell Wadsworth, Chairman***



*Football is much more than a game—it's a journey of discovery, growth, and connection. The YCC represents a significant step forward in nurturing that journey for the youth of South Australia. At Noarlunga United, we are proud to support this initiative and reaffirm our commitment to the values that make football truly special. As the YCC takes root and flourishes, we look forward to witnessing the next generation of footballers rise and thrive, both on and off the pitch. - **Monika Cadman, Chairperson***



*To learn you will progress, progress will lead to success. - **Dale Ramsey, President***



*The opportunity to enhance the game day experience for everyone involved at Playford Patriots - **Greg Voigt, Chairman***



*The Nova YCC provides an excellent pathway for young players to grow and develop along their football journey. The structure fosters respect, passion, empowerment and comradery across our junior teams, supporting the values of the Port Adelaide Pirates Soccer Club. - **James Coley, Chairperson***



Salisbury Inter Soccer Club - Women and Girls are committed to the Youth Club Championship, and the goals of having an enhanced player experience and clear developmental pathway, within a respectful and inclusive football community. - **Lauren Rauda, Chairperson**



Salisbury United are excited to participate in the YCC, with junior squads now playing back to back both home & away. This creates a competitive interest across team squads for club points and enables coaches to develop, identify and encourage player movement between squads for the best club outcome. Having players appreciate playing for a club, and not just a team is a great stepping stone into senior football. - **Charlie Morgan, President**



SRFC is an inclusive, family club in the south with a welcoming attitude and some of the best facilities in the region. We have a very strong emphasis on youth youth development. All ages welcome with miniroos, YCC, YSL, Senior Federation and Amateurs. - **David Galloway, Chairman**



SAPFC are proud to support the YCC initiative introduced by Football South Australia. Developing youth and growing pathways for junior players to excel forms part of South Adelaide's club values. The YCC formalises this commitment to excellence across the state, with infrastructure, strategy and training provided by the FSA. The future of football in SA is bright! - **Ainsley Roscrow, President**



The YCC has already improved offerings to young footballers This will get better as YCC evolves. - **John Vander Veeke, President**



YCC has been good for Vipers FC, the structure supports the high level youth development program we introduced 5 years ago. - **Adrian Moore, President**



West Adelaide SC is proud to be part of the YCC, a competition whose vision strongly aligns with our commitment to developing and supporting young players. - **Anthony Kalogerinis, Junior President**





*As President of our club, I see firsthand how our world game shapes more than just athletes, it builds character, resilience, and lifelong friendships. Our focus is on developing skills on the pitch and supporting every player's growth as a confident, respectful, and connected individual in the community. - **Gianni Lastella, President***



*To build a sustainable development model as well as a vibrant football culture and to position the fairness in our game for the community.*

*We will provide opportunities for our coaches & player pathways that meets the needs and expectation for the competition as we offer participation opportunities for all, while being affordable and embracing the best practice for the game. - **Amin Ayoubi, Chairman***