



ANTI-GAMBLING POLICY

Introduction

Bendigo City FC Inc. (“us”, “we”, “our”, “BCFC”, or “the Club”) understands the leadership role our club plays in encouraging balanced lifestyles and strengthening communities.

We accept a shared responsibility for raising awareness of the risks associated with gambling and will actively work to disrupt the normalisation of gambling in sport through our commitment to this Charter and through our actions.

The Club is a signatory to the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation’s “Love the Game” Charter.

Policy

Disrupting gambling in sport

- Bendigo City FC will not display gambling promotional material in or around the club, including ground signage.
- We agree that sporting environments should be free from gambling promotion (excluding raffles) and we will engage key decision makers, such as national and state sporting bodies and local government, in discussions that work towards this goal.

A healthy and safe club environment

- We will support and participate in awareness-raising activities including displaying program messages in and around our club and participating in the Love the Game themed round/s.
- We will support our club community by providing information about the risks of gambling and actively deter anyone under 18 years of age from participating in any form of gambling.
- If any player or club administrator is concerned about their own or someone else’s gambling, we will make every effort to refer them to gambling support services.

Safer fundraising, functions and prizes

- Where young people under 18 years of age are present, our club social and fundraising activities will not include any forms of gambling (excluding raffles).
- We will not provide gambling incentives as player awards or prizes.
- Our club functions will be held in venues that align with our club gambling policy.

Information and support services

- If any player or member of our club community is concerned about their own or someone else’s gambling, the Club will make every effort to refer them to the appropriate help and support services available.

Sports betting

- Players, coaches and club officials must never bet on any match their team is involved in, as it would trigger a conflict of interest that compromises the integrity of football. Players who bet on themselves or their opponent risk having their image and reputation tarnished, being banned by football (possibly for life) and possibly becoming the subject of a criminal investigation and/or prosecution.

Match fixing

- Fixing a match goes against the rules of football and is illegal. Fixing a match could result in serious consequences including a lifetime ban and possibly criminal sanctions.

- Whatever the reason, do not seek to fix any aspect of a match. Do not put yourself in a situation which would bring you, or even force you, to adversely influence the natural course of a match.

The Club recommends that players follow the Football Australia directive:

- Always performing to the best of your abilities.
- Do not let yourself be manipulated - certain individuals might try to develop a relationship with you built on favours or fears that they will then try to exploit for their benefit in possibly fixing a match or matches. This can include the offer of gifts, loans and support.
- Raise any concerns about anyone making offers to you with someone, such as your coach, a senior player, Football Victoria or Football Australia.

The club will refer any known or suspected instances of match fixing to the relevant authorities for investigation.

Related legislation and documents

Football Australia [Sports Betting and Match Fixing Guidelines](#)

Love the Game - <https://lovethgame.vic.gov.au/>

Gambling help online: <https://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au/>

Gamblers Help <https://gamblershelp.com.au/>

Date and approval

Approved by the Bendigo City Football Club committee

Date: July 2021

Next review date: July 2023

Document status: Public