

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

Developing Personal, Social and Emotional Skills Through Quality Coaching.

VIVASOCCER™



“It is the first time we have had a national curriculum which sets the basis for the development of all young players and coaches, whether at community or elite level”.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley states
FootballAustralia.com.au

“The new FFA National Curriculum is exciting to us all. It offers both short and long term opportunities to develop the sport and to produce National players. Often the best coaches focus on 'elite' programs and so at Viva we choose to focus on the grass roots, at community level. Our aim is to provide the very best in coaching and opportunities at this level, working with children as young as 3 years of age.

Viva Soccer are therefore able to support the FFA and, in addition to helping to attract young talent, we can also meet the needs of the majority who will not play soccer as a profession. Viva is dedicated to using soccer to have a wide reaching, positive impact on every child that joins us, and in helping them 'to be their very best' in every way."

Craig Moore expands

Viva Soccer was created in 2009 by Graham Budinger and retired Socceroos player Craig Moore to not only expose young children to a sport and a healthy lifestyle but to also set new standards with regards to outstanding grass roots coaching Nationwide. As a Not-For-Profit company, we are able to best utilise our resources to reach more children and to effectively support and train our dedicated coaches.

Viva Soccer is committed to the development of coaches in order to deliver our programs consistently across Australia. These programs are regularly assessed and monitored to support "The National Football Curriculum", which is an extension of the National Football Development Plan, announced in November 2007.

In order for children to develop not only their physical skills, fitness, stamina and soccer prowess, coaches must keep them engaged, on task, and ensure that every child can participate fully. Our program, including every lesson plan, has therefore been developed to ensure that children do not become bored or find that tasks are too easy (or difficult) for them. Even the length of tasks are considered according to the age level and ability of the group. Our coaches undertake specific training in order to learn how to work with children who may have challenging behaviour and special needs and a proactively 'inclusive' approach is taken.

Viva Soccer provides an environment that offers physical safety, has the latest equipment and resources, and is conducive to learning. If, despite the best efforts of our coaches to engage your child, they are not interested in these lessons, we will discuss the situation with you. Sometimes they are simply not yet ready for the programme.

In order to maintain consistency across the country, our coaches follow the same 'Positive Behaviour Management' Policy. This has been created by 'Triple L Training' behaviour management specialists and enables us to use a preventative approach. We do not want children excluded or removed from sessions and if a child is making behaviour choices that result in having 'bench time' more than once per session, we will discuss this with you, the parents, privately.

Viva Soccer sessions are planned to be fun and interactive, with maximum engagement i.e. little sitting around or waiting. Therefore, if a child does have more than one 'bench time' per session, we would suspect that there is something else going on, and will explore this with you. If a child has three 'bench times' in a session, the coach can call and ask you to remove your child, if it's in the best interests of the group as a whole.

Coaches are also able to consult with professional behaviour management professionals should they have questions about specific behaviours. If you have any concerns, or know that your child may find it difficult to listen and follow tasks, please do let us know in confidence ahead of time.

Unwanted Behaviour Choices

There should be no reason for a child to have bench time as they will first be reminded of the Viva Soccer 'Behaviour Rules' and what is expected. They will then be given a first warning and a second reminder of what they should be doing. If the coach sees this happening again, the child will have chosen to have bench time. This lasts for a minute per year of the child's life (i.e. 4 minutes for a four year old). To get up from the bench, the child must have remained sitting quietly on the bench for the allocated time. Bench time is used so that the child can reflect and calm down if necessary. To help young children know how long, a specially designed timer is put next to them that rings when the time has finished. They can then get up and rejoin the group without disruption.

Using the power of soccer to have a positive impact on children

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If you have any questions about this policy, please do not hesitate to ask.

Viva Soccer Ph 1300 870 970

Strategies for developing positive behaviour are in collaboration with **Triple L Training (Australia)** who also offer ongoing support and training to all Viva Soccer coaches and franchise owners.

vivasoccer.com.au

Viva Soccer Positive Behaviour Management Policy Copyright 2011

As previously stated, bench time is something coaches are trained to avoid where possible, and to enable the child to make positive behaviour choices. We understand that this is easier for some than others. We also find that this 'thinking time' allows for a prevention of escalation and in most cases the child is then able to just carry on with no further issues. Ultimately, children want to participate and we need to allow them to make choices that will allow them to.

Please note that physical violence for any reason will not be tolerated. Should this occur, we will address it on a case by case basis, however note that children over the age of 12 should be reported to the police. We have a duty of care to protect all participants. If you have any reason to worry that your child cannot manage anger, please let us know so that we can proactively work with them to promote their inclusion, however this will not be at the expense of group safety.

Creating a Positive Environment and Acknowledging Effort and Personal Achievements

It is far easier to encourage children to follow 'rules' of behaviour when motivated to do so intrinsically and also extrinsically. In order to help them focus and understand what behaviours as well as skills and effort we want from them, we also offer visual representations of 'success'.

Viva Soccer has 5 clear 'rules' that encompass everything, and focus on what we do want and expect of all children in attendance. Coaches proactively use these during every session:

- Look at coaches (without talking) when instructions are given
- Keep yourself and equipment still while coaches are giving instructions
- Be kind towards others
- Care for equipment, including your own
- Sit quietly on the 'Bench' if asked to do so

When a coach sees something he or she wants to acknowledge - whether it be great effort, concentration, good listening or excellent execution of a skill - they will highlight this at that time so that the child receives constructive praise and also so that the other children learn from this feedback. Coaches are taught to look for positive behaviours and actions and highlight these, rather than the negative. Coaches also make notes throughout the session, as specific rewards can be allocated at the end of each session. For example, we have specially created stickers for young children that encompass a range of skills and behaviours we encourage. Stickers specifically relating to behaviour highlight 'Good Behaviour Choices' during the session. As we want these to be meaningful and for children to understand why they have earned a visual representation of their effort, we have created a unique line in reward stickers that are also linked with soccer itself. Older children can earn Viva Points - which can be turned into prizes.

Viva Soccer programs help children engage positively with one another in group situations and also encourages individuality and creativity. Hand in hand with setting boundaries, Viva Soccer also offers a holistic approach to coaching children, and especially those first introduced to the game. Looking at the bigger picture, we want all children to love soccer for life!

We also expect parents and carers to honour our philosophy, and show only positive encouragement when watching sessions or games, in line with the **'Positive or It's Pointless'** government initiative. By working in partnership with parents and carers, we are developing positive side line behaviour from supporters, working together to build tolerance and harmony.

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