

Empowering Children Initiatives

Within this document are some initiatives / ideas that can assist in children feeling empowered around their club, and how these ideas could be implemented. The main goal behind these initiatives is to place children on situations or roles where they feel as though they have a voice within the club and that their membership within the club is valued, whether it be to have them talking in front of their team or their efforts on game day acknowledged.

Empowerment Initiatives for Children:	How to Implement Initiatives:
Certificate of participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award children frequently throughout the season • Can be for anything (taking their first mark) • Award a different child each week
Team Code of Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of season have children decide on approximately 10 rules which players, coaches, team managers, volunteers and parents will need to abide by
Allow time for players to voice opinions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate time each training session for players to share what they believe the team did well in and areas for improvement
Role within club (community player of the week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement roles which the children can participate in each week • Choose a different kid each week • Could be: scoring, time keeping, water runner • Great for disability inclusion
Advertise achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize club newsletters • Advertise achievements • E.g. 50th game, great marks, big kicks, notable certificates of participation awarded • Try and get kids names in the newsletter who might not gain much recognition around the club • Advertise the role of the community player of the week • Advertise the members of a club committee • Advertise if a child is being used for a form of promotional material
Allow players to take charge in training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign a different child or group to come up with a stretch or drill to get team to do • New kid each week • Get them in front of the team and take charge
Presentation night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children involved with handing out awards • Have players who won the award the year before to hand the winner of the current year the award
Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise a player committee where any age group can join • Discuss areas for club improvement
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate a child each week to say something on game day to motivate the team • Or say something after the game to congratulate or encourage teammates

Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a player from an older age group the assist in coaching • Help run drills • Different kid as captain each week
Buddy System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a new player has joined, assign a buddy to introduce them to the team • Show around the club • Introduce to club personnel • Show them who the CSO is and how to find where to contact them • One buddy per new player
Multicultural Round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the different cultures in your club • Have a round signifying the acknowledgment of being multicultural • In training you could have those children who have a different cultural background to talk about it
Provide Bilingual and / or Multilingual Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all members, club personnel and parents feel as though their cultural backgrounds are being acknowledged ensuring signage is in different languages
Acknowledgment of Different Cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display pictures and objects of various cultures represented at the club • Reflect the various cultural groups in the school district by providing signs in the main officer/club rooms • Aim to welcome people in different languages of the community • E.g. Sign acknowledging the original owners of the land – get permission from local Aboriginal community
Parent Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage parents to help around club • Different parent each week bring oranges • Have a night where a parent can come train with the kids
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an end of season survey to obtain the players feedback and opinions of how the season was run, how their club created an inclusive environment and how the club personnel were supportive and encouraging • Ask whether the club has accommodated for their cultural requirements (e.g. does the canteen supply food they can eat)
Address by Correct Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask players of a different cultural background how they would like to be address • E.g. Some prefer Aboriginal others prefer Torres Strait Islanders
Understand Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a player has a disability, ensure to ask them what their limits are (do they need longer rest times) • Ask how you can ensure you accommodate for their needs (ask if they lip read and whether they need to in view of you at all times when giving instructions)
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If promoting the club in any form, ask parent permission and use players • Use a variety of gender and race • Use different kids each time

Child Safety Officer

- Have the Child Safety Officer introduce themselves to the teams at the first training session of the season
- Inform children of the role and that they can talk to you about anything and no consequences will result