

ACTIVE RESPECT



Registration information for clubs

Introducing Active Respect

Active Respect gives 14-17 year-old boys and their football coaches leadership skills to challenge harmful expectations and social pressures with a style of play that's active on respect - on and off the pitch.

During 2025-26, Active Respect will be delivered by Jesuit Social Services' The Men's Project in partnership with Football Victoria. This is a two-year pilot to trial the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) model in Australia. CBIM is an internationally recognised violence prevention program with evidence showing CBIM can help build stronger, healthier teams and increase respectful behaviours. Evaluation of Active Respect will help us understand how CBIM works for Australian boys and the best ways to support community clubs to deliver programs like this.

How it works

Active Respect builds on the powerful influence community sport has in young people's lives. By working with clubs through a strengths-based curriculum, the program unlocks the leadership potential of coaches and their teams. Active Respect supports coaches to deliver short talks to boys in their teams during training focusing on:

- Pressures that boys and men experience
- Harmful impacts these pressures can have, including: -
 - o Mental health and suicide rates
 - o Sexual harassment and violence against women
- Healthier alternatives and practical strengths-based solutions



Coaches gain practical tools and knowledge to empower their teams through a pre-season CBIM Clinic that designed to build knowledge, confidence and skills.



What will players do?

During the football season, players in Active Respect teams take part in a short team chat each week. For 12 weeks, coaches will run a 15-minute conversation with players about topics like:

- personal responsibility
- discipline
- teamwork and cooperation
- respectful behaviour
- mental health
- healthy relationships (including consent)
- standing up to bullying

These team talks will not take time away from training. Many teams say the program helps players feel more connected. When a team feels connected, they often play better together.

Active Respect Young Leaders

Each participating team, will be invited to nominate up to 2 players to join Active Respect Young Leaders training.

How does the Active Respect Program work?



Frequently Asked Questions

What is it?

A coach-led leadership program that runs during training that supports respect, healthy relationships, and positive team culture.

It explores the pressures boys feel about how they're "meant" to act and offers healthier alternatives.

Does it replace training?

No.

It's a 15-minute discussion built into training — football time stays the same. Teams that have taken part in Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) often report stronger team unity, which can support performance.

Why do it in sport?

Coaches and teams have strong influence at this age, and programs like this work best when they're part of something boys already care about.

Active Respect is based on CBIM, which has been shown to build stronger, healthier teams and increase respectful behaviours. The program also helps us understand how CBIM works for Australian boys and community clubs.

Is it age-appropriate?

Yes.

Content is tailored for U14–U17 players and gives coaches tools to guide conversations about the pressures boys face. It supports open discussion about respect, standing up to harmful behaviour, and building healthy friendships and relationships.

Who runs it?

Active Respect is delivered by the club, with support from The Men's Project and Football Victoria, based on the internationally recognised Coaching Boys Into Men program. See "More About Us" on Pages 8 - 9.

Does everyone have to do it?

Active Respect is only offered to clubs that register and commit to supporting participating coaches and players.

Clubs select U14–U17 mixed teams to be involved. Weekly talks begin in May for registered players.

Participation is voluntary, and players under 16 require parent or guardian consent.

How are coaches and teams recognised?

End-of-season certificate presentations are held for registered coaches and teams. Coaches also receive a voucher from Football Victoria for a fully funded place in the accredited Foundation of Football course.

Where can I find out more?

This handbook is a great place to start. The Men's Project and Football Victoria will host online information sessions in mid-March when registrations open. Your Club Lead will share details soon.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Active Respect Project Team

Our Active Respect project team is made up of Jesuit Social Services' The Men's Project staff working alongside Football Victoria to guide each club through their Active Respect 2026 season.

See 'More About Us' on Page 9 to learn about our organisations and our shared commitment to this work.

Contact the Active Respect project team via Active.Respect@jss.org.au

2. Club Champion

A club committee member who is the main spokesperson for Active Respect. They:

- Show the club's leadership support
- Attend the online Club Induction
- Promote the program across the club
- Support Club Lead to run Player Pre-season and Post-season survey sessions
- Help ensure participating coaches and teams are recognised.
- Attend end of season Active Respect certificate presentation
- Support Club Leads to run pre-season and post-season surveys sessions
- May be invited to participate in a focus group at the end of the season

3. Club Lead

A junior coordinator, director of coaching, or other club official who coordinates Active Respect day-to-day. They:

- Communicate as the main contact for the project team
- Attend the online Club Induction
- Ensure coaches, players, and their parents or guardians attend the online Club Information Session
- Manage time-sensitive admin such as coach onboarding, player registrations, record keeping, and parent communications
- Coordinate Player Pre-season and Post-season survey sessions
- Are invited to participate in focus group at the end of the season Model the program's message to coaches, players, and families
- Attend end of season Active Respect certificate presentation
- May be invited to participate in a focus group at the end of season

Roles and Responsibilities

4. Coaches

Coaches and assistant coaches of participating U14–U17 mixed teams. They:

- Attend either the Club induction or Club Information Session
- Promote Active Respect to their teams and their player's parents or guardians
- Attend the Active Respect CBIM Coach Clinic (2.5 hours online, with The Men's Project)
- Support Club Lead to run Player Pre-season and Post-season survey sessions
- Hold weekly Active Respect (CBIM) training talks during regular training
- Access in-season learning and coach support from The Men's Project
- Support team culture and leadership by modelling respectful, healthy ways to respond to the pressures boys and young men face
- Attend end of season Active Respect certificate presentation
- Are invited to complete pre-season and post-season surveys, and participate in focus group at the end of the season

Football Victoria recognises Active Respect coaches. Upon completing the program, each coach receives a fully funded place in the accredited Foundation of Football course.

5. Parents/ Guardians

- Attend the online Club Information Session to learn more about Active Respect (1 hour online, with The Men's Project)
- Complete Active Respect player registration and consent (for players under 16 only)
- Encourage open conversation with their child about Active Respect and the things they are learning each week

6. Boys Football Players

Participating U14–U17 mixed teams. They:

- Attend the online Club Information Session to learn more about Active Respect (1 hour online, with The Men's Project) Complete Active Respect player registration and consent (parent consent required for players under 16)
- Take part in weekly CBIM talks as part of normal training.
- Learn to recognise harmful behaviours and how take positive bystander action.
- Build skills for inclusive and respectful relationships, communication, and mental health
- Actively role model respect for teammates and club community
- Are invited to complete pre-season and post-season surveys, and participate in focus group at the end of the season

Roles and Responsibilities

7. Young Leaders Two boys from each participating team. They:

- Are nominated by coaches to join the Active Respect Young Leader program
- Attend online leadership clinics and build skills through practice cycles during regular football training and games
- Build values-based leadership skills and help influence respectful behaviour within their team, club, and the wider football community.
- Support coaches and teammates through role modelling respect and strength-based actions to create positive, supportive team culture
- Are invited to complete pre-season and post-season surveys, and participate in focus group at the end of the season

What are the benefits of being involved in Active Respect?

- Build stronger, more united teams and foster healthy relationships among players, coaches, and peers.
- Create a safer, more respectful club environment led by empowered coaches who model positive behaviours.
- Strengthen your club culture and enhance stakeholder retention, with players, parents, and coaches proud to be part of a values-driven club.
- Enhance your grant applications, particularly for initiatives supporting the growth of the female game and inclusion in football.
- Strengthen relationships with your local Council and demonstrate your club's alignment with the Fair Access Policy and broader community values.

More about us



A Jesuit Social Services initiative

Jesuit Social Services works to build a fair society where everyone can reach their potential. Since 1977, it has supported people facing disadvantage and leads advocacy, policy, and research.

The Men's Project, launched in 2017, is an initiative of Jesuit Social Services. It works to reduce violence and harmful behaviours among boys and men, strengthen wellbeing, and keep families and communities safe.

Its vision is good men, respectful relationships, and safe communities. This is achieved through research, promoting healthy gender norms and positive bystander skills, and developing new ways to prevent cycles of harm.



Football Victoria is proud to partner with The Men's Project on Active Respect, a program that strongly aligns with our strategic commitment to achieving 50:50 gender equity.

We are committed to addressing the underlying gendered drivers of violence against women by creating long-term cultural change and greater respect across the football ecosystem. Using a primary prevention approach that engages 14–15-year-old boys in conversations about gender and equity during their formative years is critical to challenging harmful attitudes and learned behaviours.

We look forward to contributing to a program that supports healthy expressions of masculinity, reduces hostility, and helps build safer communities.

Evaluation Information

Why are we evaluating the program?

Active Respect is a trial program so we need to collect information to understand how well it works. This requires us to track how well and how much the program helps school-aged boys develop healthy and respectful ideas as they transition from adolescence into adulthood.

How will we evaluate the program?

The evaluation is run by The Men's Project from Jesuit Social Services, working closely with Football Victoria and each club's Lead, and Club Champion.

What might people be asked to do?

Players, Young Leaders, coaches, and club leaders may be invited to:

- do short surveys, and/or
- join a small group discussion (focus group) about their experience of the program.

Club Lead and Club Champion are also asked to help us run parts of the evaluation such as collecting surveys.

We may ask about changes in:

- knowledge (what they know)
- confidence
- attitudes (what they think or believe)
- actions (what they do)

Coaches and Young Leaders may also be invited to do short self-reflections about their experience.

What about privacy?

Personal information is protected by law and kept confidential.

- Participants will use a unique code and surveys will not ask for names or contact details.
- Any quotes used in reports will be anonymous. No names or club details will be included.

Evaluation consent

- Consent to take part in the evaluation is asked during registration.
- Anyone under 16 needs parent or guardian consent.
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time before a survey or focus group is completed.
- Anyone can choose to opt out of the evaluation at any time before reports are published.

Do we have ethics approval?

Yes. This evaluation is approved by Jesuit Social Services' Human Research Ethics Committee. Project ID: JSS20241201

Can feedback or complaints be shared?

Yes. Young people, parents/carers, coaches, and club representatives can:

- speak with staff from The Men's Project or Football Victoria, and/or
- submit feedback or complaints through the Jesuit Social Services website, and/or
- contact the Human Research Ethics coordinator at Jesuit Social Services via: **Active.Respect@jss.org.au**

Are there any risks with participating in this evaluation?

- Some questions or topics may be sensitive. People do not have to answer questions they are uncomfortable with, and can stop at any time.
- Support helpline details are listed in the surveys and on the next page of this handbook.



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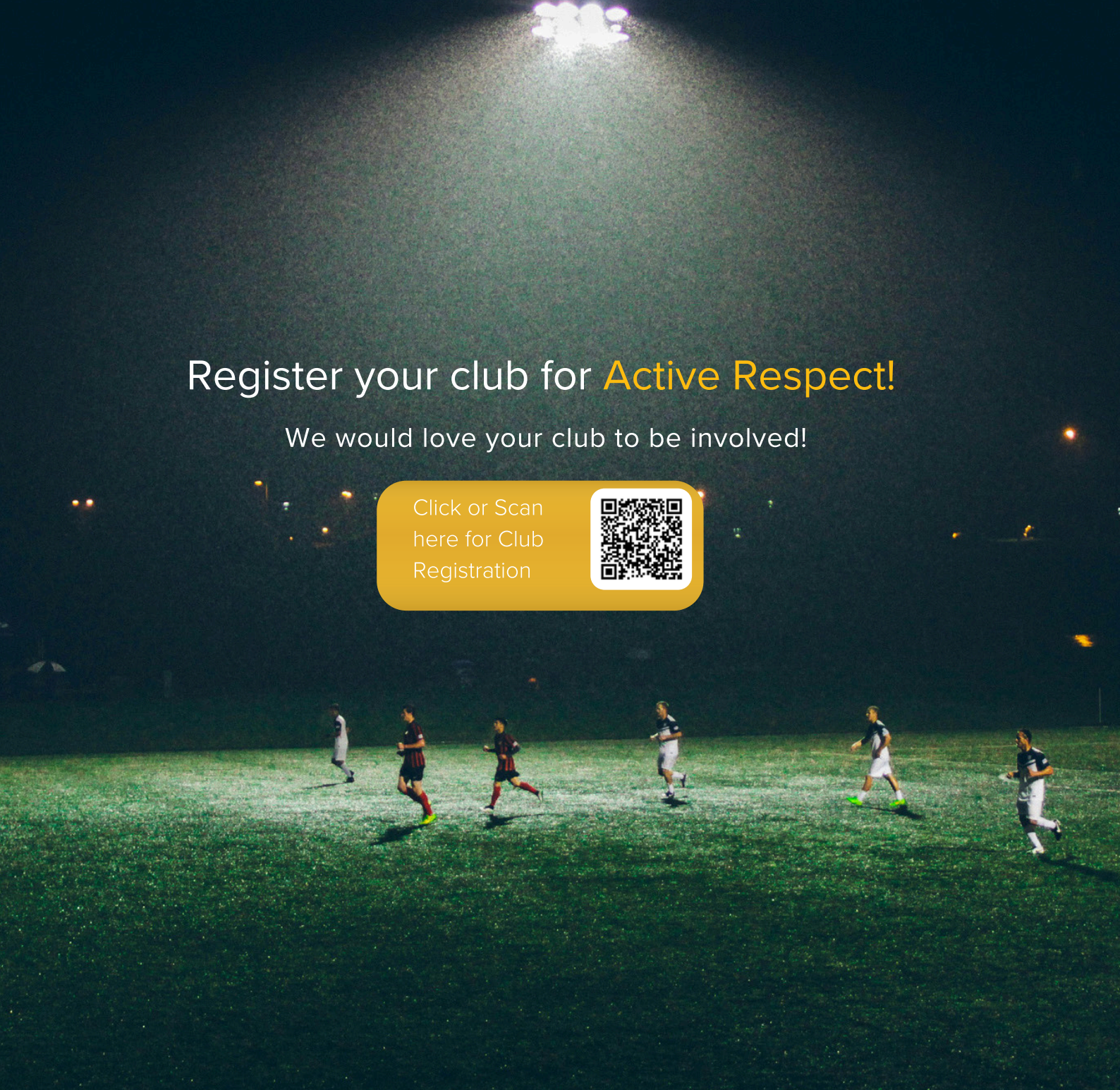
1800RESPECT
NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC
FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE



Register your club for **Active Respect!**

We would love your club to be involved!

Click or Scan
here for Club
Registration



Club registration complete?

Next steps: individual registrations for Club Leads, coaches and players

Click here for
Club Lead
Registration



Click here
for Coach
Registration



Click here
for Player
Registration



Questions about the program or need support with registrations ? Contact the Active Respect Project Team via Active.Respect@jss.org.au