



THE PRESIDENT

When you take on the role of a sports club president, you are in a position to significantly change club culture.

You can choose how this power will impact people – for good or for bad.

There are presidents who get their clubs into good positions financially and with plenty of trophies. Yet there are underlying issues with their club. Some coaches abuse their young charges without being pulled up, club resources favour men and boys and women are more likely to be serving in the canteen.

Then there are the presidents who want to see their club as a place of deep respect, safety, fairness, fun and success. The club is exceptional in its embrace of diversity. Resources are used fairly. Men and women work alongside each other in all aspects of the club.

These clubs win on and off the field. They are a force within their local communities.

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A

Alignment of Values

The buck starts and stops with you. You must lead by example.

- Walk the walk; ensure your club values are reflected in the club 's strategic plan, goals and activities across the club.
- If you feel that the club values are not adequate, well-defined and stated, revisit them and kick start reestablishing them.

W

Working Well With Others

You're hugely influential in modelling respectful teamwork.

- Listen closely and respectfully instead of waiting for your turn to speak.
- Chair meetings in ways that encourage people to be honest and constructive.
- Delegate before you suffocate. Ask for help instead of trying to cope by yourself and burning out. Start with the committee.
- Play to people's strengths and what they're wanting out of their time there.
- Give credit where credit's due.

E

Effective Communication

Everyone values transparency.

- Communicate your objectives and plans to the wider club community.
- Spare yourself a lot of scrutiny and suspicion by letting people know what they can expect. Put people at ease by allowing them to see why decisions are being made, and understand the direction that the club is taking.

S

Success Judged (the right way)

Promote and fulfill your club's success measures. Your success will depend on how these measures are set and the way in which you lead the club.

- Effective and efficient committee operations.
- Aim for a high level of trust and respect between people around the club.
- Recruit enthusiastic volunteers and focus on enhanced member and supporter well-being.
- Improving the membership by making it more inclusive.
- Positive on-field and off-field performance and fewer breaches of Code of Conduct.

O

Ownership

As a decision maker, and a human, you'll make mistakes. Own them, learn from them. Don't pass the buck.

- Be humble and accept criticism graciously.
- Respect people's humanity and create an environment where mistakes are embraced as learning opportunities, and not the worst thing that someone can make.
- Your club is a family where each member helps one another to bounce back and be better for it.

M

Modelling Respect

Like it or not, you'll be watched closely. People will follow your lead.

- Live and reference your club values when and wherever possible.
- In your formal role, you have lots of meetings to attend and chair. Treat them as the great opportunities they are, for demonstrating civility and respect for those around the table, inclusiveness, and fairness, rather than intimidation and abuse.

E

Equality and Fairness

Embrace multiculturalism. Value diversity. Do not tolerate discriminatory attitudes for even a moment.

- Call it out. Tear down negative stereotypes about people from other backgrounds, of different abilities, and genders.
- Take time to explain to club people why these discriminations and assumptions aren't tolerated.
- Be patient, never aggressive, in helping them to understand the value of diversity.