



PAT CRONIN FOUNDATION ROUND

CLUB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We encourage this message to be delivered to the Club either at an event, in the Club newsletter and on the Club's social media.

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Welcome, everyone. This weekend, our club joins 245 other clubs, and 2775 teams in Victoria for the Pat Cronin Foundation Round. Together, we remember Pat and support the movement to end senseless violence.

Pat's story is a heartbreaking reminder of how quickly a single act of violence can devastate lives. In April 2016, after playing his first senior football match with his brother Lucas, Pat went out for a quiet night with friends. A fight broke out and one of his mates was attacked so Pat stepped in to drag him away from trouble when a coward punch from behind struck Pat in the head. He wasn't knocked out and remained standing, checking on his friends, but two hours later he suffered a seizure and was taken to hospital unconscious. Two days later, his parents made the agonising decision to turn off his life support.

As we participate this weekend, wearing the yellow 'Be Wise' armbands, we remember Pat and commit as a Club to play our part in building safer communities. Violence is never okay, and respect for our teammates, opponents, and officials is key to creating a positive, supportive environment.

Please join us in shaking hands with your opponents before and after the games, sharing our message on social media, and purchasing raffle tickets to win a Toyota RAV4, with all proceeds going towards the Foundation's expanded education program. Together, let's take a stand, really lean in and participate in what this Round means to Be Wise and End the Coward Punch.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COACHES

1. Ensure each player has a yellow armband on their left arm.
2. Gather your team before the game and share the message below.
3. After the game, bring both teams together. Remind them of what they played for, encourage them to shake hands, and take a group photo to share on social media, tagging the Pat Cronin Foundation.

Junior Coach Message

"Before we start today, I want to talk about the yellow armbands you're all wearing. These armbands represent something important - respect, safety, and looking out for one another.

Pat Cronin was a player just like you. He was a great teammate and a caring friend. But a single, senseless punch to his head took his life. Violence is never the answer, and we all have a role to play in preventing it.

Today, let's play hard but fair and we are going to show our opponents respect by shaking each other's hand both before and after the game.

Show respect to each other, your opponents, and the officials. If you feel frustrated, take a moment, breathe, and think carefully."

Senior Coach Message

"Take a look at the yellow armbands you're wearing. These aren't just symbols - they're reminders of respect, safety, and the consequences of our actions.

Pat Cronin was a young man with his whole life ahead of him. After playing his first senior football match with his brother Lucas, Pat went out for a quiet night with friends, where a fight broke out and he stepped in to help a mate, and a single coward punch from behind ended his life.

Just one hit - that's all it took. No one should ever lose their life to a moment of senseless violence.

As we take the field today, play hard, but play fair, we are going to show our opponents respect by shaking each other's hand both before and after the game

Respect your teammates, your opponents, and the officials. If tensions rise, take a breath. Violence is never okay. Be Wise. Think Carefully. Act Kindly. Let's honour Pat's memory and make our community safer."