

## **A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FOOTBALL**

Football is the national game. All those involved with the game at every level whether as a player, match official, coach, owner or administrator, have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act according to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game is, and remains, high. This Code applies to all those involved in football under the auspices of The Football Association.

### **Community**

Football, at all levels, is a vital part of a community. Football will take into account community feeling when making decisions.

### **Equality**

Football is opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent it, in whatever form, from being expressed.

### **Participants**

Football recognises the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who play, those who coach or help in any way, and those who officiate, as well as administrators and supporters. Football is committed to appropriate consultation.

### **Young People**

Football acknowledges that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative behaviour within the game, and will not tolerate corruption or improper practices.

### **Trust and Respect**

Football will uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organisations.

### **Violence**

Football rejects the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game.

### **Fairness**

Football is committed to fairness in its dealings with all involved in the game.

### **Integrity and Fair Play**

Football is committed to the principle of playing to win consistent with Fair Play.

The following section will provide you with the current FA codes of conduct for;

Coaches

Players

Team Officials

Spectators (Parents, Carers, Guardians)

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**

Set out below is The F.A. Coaches Association Code of Conduct (which reflects the standards expressed by the National Coaching Foundation and the National Association of Sports Coaches), which forms the benchmark for all involved in coaching:

1. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
2. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
3. Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
4. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
5. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
6. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
7. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
8. Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
9. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
10. Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. Fair Play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
11. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
12. Not to use or tolerate inappropriate language

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SPECTATORS**

Parents/Spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they love being part of the game and most of all its fun. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within your club it is important to reinforce the message to parents/spectators that positive encouragement will contribute to:

1. Children enjoying football.
2. A sense of personal achievement.
3. Self-esteem.
4. Improving the child's skill, techniques and understanding of the game.

A parents / spectator's expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards:

1. Other players.
2. Officials.
3. Managers.
4. Spectators.

Ensure that parents / spectators within your club are always positive and encouraging towards all of the children not just their own. Encourage parents / spectators to:

1. Applaud the opposition as well as your own team.
2. Avoid coaching their child during the game (Leave it to the coach)
3. Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
4. Respect the referee's decision.
5. Respect the decision of the team coach.
6. Encourage your child to learn the rules
7. Experience the journey with your child- offer support and encouragement at all times

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS**

Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game but not winning at any cost – Fair Play and respect for all others in the game is fundamentally important. This Code focuses on players involved at all levels of football from elite performance to small sided football matches. The key concepts in the code are valid for players at all levels.

### **Obligations towards the game**

A player should:

1. Make every effort to develop his own sporting abilities- Skill, technique, tactics, and stamina.
2. Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game, even if his team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
3. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
4. Avoid all forms of gamesmanship, and time-wasting.
5. Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
6. Not use inappropriate language.

### **Obligations towards one's own team**

A player should:

1. Make every effort consistent with Fair Play and the Laws of the Game to help his own team win.
2. Resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning.

### **Respect for the Laws of the Game and competition rules**

A player should:

1. Know and abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the game, and the competition rules.
2. Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
3. Resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

### **Respect towards Opponents**

A player should:

1. Treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
2. Safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents.

### **Respect towards the Match Officials**

A player should:

1. Accept the decisions of the Match Official without protest.
2. Avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official.
3. Show due respect towards Match Officials.

### **Respect towards Team Officials**

A player should:

1. Abide by the instructions of his Coach and Team Officials, provided they do not contradict the spirit of this code.
2. Show due respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition.

### **Obligations towards the Supporters**

A player should:

1. Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TEAM OFFICIALS**

*This Code applies to all team/club officials (although some items may not apply to all officials).*

#### **Obligations towards the game**

The team official should:

1. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
2. Promote and develop their own team having regard to the interest of the players, supporters and reputation of the national game.
3. Share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interest of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests.
4. Avoid all forms of gamesmanship.
5. Show due respect to Match Officials and others involved in the game.
6. Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
7. Not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

#### **Obligations towards the team**

The team official should:

1. Make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the club/team, and to obtain the best results by the team, using all permitted means.
2. Give priority to the interests of the team over individual interests.
3. Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques.
4. Promote ethical principles.
5. Show due respect to the interests of players, coaches and other officials, at his own club/team and others.

#### **Obligations towards the Supporters**

The team official should:

1. Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

#### **Respect towards the Match Officials**

A team official should:

1. Accept the decisions of the Match Official without protest.
2. Avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official.
3. Show due respect towards Match Officials.