



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 first and foremost love the game. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football, it is important to reinforce the message to parents/spectators that positive encouragement will contribute to a player's enjoyment, sense of personal achievement, self-esteem, and development.

Adult behaviour must be of the highest standard to set the correct example to the players. Parents'/spectators' expectations and attitudes also have a significant bearing on a Player's attitude towards:

- Other players
- Officials
- Managers
- Spectators

It is expected that all Parents and Spectators will conduct themselves in a manner that is both honourable and in keeping with the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship. They will not indulge themselves in tactics, either by word or action, that are likely to bring the game, this Club or the League in which it plays into disrepute.

In particular, Parents/spectators of the Club should always:

- Be positive and encouraging towards all of the children, not just their own
- Applaud the opposition as well as their own team.
- Avoid coaching the child during the game.
- Avoid shouting at players and match/team officials and the use of provocative, rude or obscene language or gestures.
- Respect the decisions of managers/coaches at all times.
- Respect the decisions of match officials at all times. In many cases newly qualified referees, often young in years, are appointed to youth matches in order to gain experience and these officials should be given encouragement and support.
- Give attention to each of the children involved, not just the most talented.
- Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football.
- Treat victory with humility and be generous in their praise for the opposition.
- Treat defeat with dignity and give support to the players.



Breaches of this code

Persons who breach this Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action taken in accordance with the Club's Disciplinary Code.

Examples of the most common types of unacceptable behaviour are:

- Abusive behaviour or language
- Threatening behaviour
- Violent conduct
- Provocative, rude or obscene language and gestures

Note: Matters of team selection, including the playing of substitutes, remain the sole responsibility of the Team Manager and his/her decision will remain final. The position and authority of the Team Manager shall be recognised and his/her decisions shall not be challenged or questioned in public. Any reasonable queries, or points of team selection and the like that require clarification may be addressed to the Team Manager in private either after a match or on any day before a match day. A Team Manager is under no obligation to respond to Parents'/Guardians' comments or queries just before or during a game.

Any complaint regarding the opposition, referee, spectators or any other aspect of the game must be dealt with by the Team Manager. It is not acceptable for individuals to take the law into their own hands.