

Codes of Conduct

PLAYERS

We will ask our players:

- to play to the best of their ability and for the benefit of their team;
- to play fairly in accordance with the Laws of the Game and as directed by the referee;
- to respect their team-mates, Team Manager and Coach;
- to respect opponents and their Team Manager and Coach;
- to appreciate that their Team Manager and Coach will make decisions that are in the best interest of the team;
- to be self-disciplined and never, in any circumstances:
 - use foul and abusive language; or
 - engage in threatening or violent behaviour;
- to respect match officials by:
 - always accepting, and never complaining about, their decisions and directions given during a match;
 - never trying to influence their decisions or appealing for a decision to be made; and
 - thanking them for their service at the end of a game;
- to be gracious in victory and defeat;
- to talk to the Club's Welfare Officer, or someone they trust, if they are unhappy about anything at the Club;

Players should be aware that if this code is not followed, parents may be informed and actions may be taken by the Club, County FA or The FA.

A player may be:

- required to apologise to their team-mates, the other team, Referee or Team Manager / Coach;
- given a formal warning from the Team Manager / Coach or the Club committee;
- substituted or dropped from the team;
- suspended from training;
- required to leave the Club.

In addition:

- The FA or County FA may impose a fine and/or suspension against the club and the individual player must reimburse the Club for such a fine and any administration charge levied by the relevant authority.
- such fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the fine being imposed and failure to do so will result in the immediate suspension of the player until payment is made and may, if not paid, result in the termination of the player's registration.

CLUB OFFICIALS including Team Managers & Coaches

All volunteers associated with the Club bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help create a positive environment in which our players can learn and enjoy the game.

On and off the field, Club officials are expected to:

- use their position to set a positive example for the young people they are responsible for;
- show respect to others involved in the game including match officials and the opposition's players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators;
- adhere to the laws and spirit of the game;
- promote fair play and high standards of behaviour;
- respect match officials by:

- always accepting, and never complaining about, their decisions and directions given during a match;
- never trying to influence their decisions or appealing for a decision to be made; and
- never entering the field of play without the Referee's permission;
- thanking them for their service at the end of a game;
- never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;
- be gracious in victory and defeat.
- When working with players, Club officials are also expected to:
 - prioritise the safety, well-being and enjoyment of each player;
 - never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying;
 - encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance;
 - ensure all organised activities are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity;
 - co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) and act in a player's best interest;

All Club Officials will be aware that if this code is not followed, actions may be taken by the Club, County FA or The FA.

A Club official may be:

- required to meet with the Club, League or County Welfare Officer;
- suspended by the Club from attending matches;
- suspended or fined by the County FA;
- required to leave the Club or have their role terminated by the Club.

In addition:

- a Coach may have their FA Coaching Licence withdrawn.

SPECTATORS

Our collective responsibility to set a good example and help create a positive environment in which players can learn and enjoy the game extends to everyone attending a football match or training session.

Spectators, including parents, are expected to:

- be mindful that children play for fun;
- give encouragement to all players, not just the most talented;
- applaud effort and good play as well as success;
- respect the referee's decisions - even if they may not agree with them;
- appreciate good play by all players no matter which team they play for;
- remain at least one metre behind the touchline and/or within a designated spectators' area (where provided);
- let the team manager / coach do their job and not confuse players by shouting on to the pitch, telling them what to do or trying to coach them during a game;
- encourage the players to respect the opposition and the match officials;
- give positive support and, when players make a mistake, offer them encouragement not criticism;
- never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour;

Spectators should be aware that if this code is not followed, actions may be taken by the Club, County FA or The FA.

A spectator or parent may be:

- issued with a verbal warning from the Club or a League official;
- required to meet with the Club, League or County FA Welfare Officer;
- required to meet with the Club committee;
- obliged to undertake an FA education course;
- obliged to leave the match venue if asked to do so by a Club official;

- asked by the Club not to attend future games;
- suspended from the Club; or
- required to leave the Club along with any dependents.

In addition:

- the County FA or The FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the Club.

Note:

The Club reserves the right to take action, at any time, against anyone involved with the Club who is found guilty of conduct detrimental to the Club's good name and reputation.

Any player, manager or coach has the right of appeal against any of the actions outlined above by writing to the Club Secretary within seven days of being notified of a breach of a Code of Conduct. In the absence of an appeal the relevant Secretary will deal with the matter on behalf of the Club in accordance with the procedures and guidelines of the Lancashire Football Association.

MATCH OFFICIALS

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game and the Club recognises that match officials can also have an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game, both on and off the pitch. A shortage of match officials means that a Team manager, Coach or other Club official may from time to time be called upon to referee a game.

The FA's code of conduct requires match officials to:

- be honest and completely impartial at all times;
- apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently;
- manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner;
- deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct;
- never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials;
- support their match official colleagues at all times;
- set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game;
- communicate with the players and encourage fair play;
- respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains;
- prepare physically and mentally for every match;
- complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which they officiate;
- understand and accept that if this code is not followed, actions may be taken by the County FA or The FA. A match official may be required to:
 - meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
 - meet with The FA/County FA Referees Committee

Last Approved: 20/7/22