**CODES OF CONDUCT**

Creating the right environment for young players

The behaviour of players, their parents, spectators, officials and administrators is absolutely critical in ensuring that our young players enjoy an appropriate environment in their formative years of playing football. The major focus should be on letting the children play with minimal instruction and plenty of encouragement.

Below are a series of codes of behaviour that all people involved in junior football must be aware of and abide by.

**Players Code of Behaviour**

* Play by the rules.
* Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
* Control you temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
* Work equally hard for yourself and/or our team. Your team’s performance will benefit and so will you.
* Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition
* Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
* Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
* Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please your parents and coaches.
* Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

**Coaches Code of Behaviour**

* Remember that young people participate for pleasure, and winning is only part of the fun
* Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or not coming first.
* Be reasonable in your demands on players’ time, energy and enthusiasm.
* Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.
* Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
* Avoid overplaying the talented players; the ‘just average’ need and deserve equal time.
* Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
* Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
* Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
* Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people.
* Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player’s skill development.
* Respect the rights, dignity and worthy of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

**Parents Code of Behaviour**

* Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
* Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
* Focus on your child’s efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose.
* Encourage children to play according to the rules and settle disagreements with resorting to hostility or violence.
* Never ridicule or yell at a child making a mistake or losing a competition.
* Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful plays by all participants.
* Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
* Respect officials’ decisions and teach children to do likewise.
* Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
* Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

**Spectators Code of Behaviour**

* Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
* Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of the game’s outcome.
* Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
* Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
* Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
* Show respect for your team’s opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
* Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials’ decisions.
* Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
* Respect the right, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.