

RESPECT

Referee is in charge

Encourage team-mates

Shout, but don't criticise

Play fairly

Enjoy the game

Captain only speaks to the referee

Try whatever the score

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YOUNG PLAYERS

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. As a player you have a big part to play. That's why The FA is asking every player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct. When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club. I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA.

I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club.

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club.

ANY CLUB/TEAM OFFICIAL, PLAYER OR PARENT FOUND TO BE MAKING INAPPROPRIATE SUBMISSIONS ON SOCIAL NETWORK SITES (EG. FACEBOOK) WILL BE REPORTED TO THE LINCS. FA

RESPECT

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS AND PARENTS/CARERS

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. This club is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment.

Remember children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Winning isn't everything. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for players at all times.

I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA.

I may:

- Be issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Be required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Be required to meet with the club committee
- Be obliged to undertake an FA education course
- Be obliged to leave the match venue by the club
- Be requested by the club not to attend future games
- Be suspended or have my club membership removed
- Be required to leave the club along with any dependents.

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine

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RESPECT

RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MATCH OFFICIALS.

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the side-lines.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for match officials at all time.

I will:

- 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 my 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 I officiate. I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA.

I maybe:

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Committee.

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RESPECT

COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS AND CLUB OFFICIALS

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. In the FA's survey of 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the side-line. Play your part and observe the FA's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

On and off the field, I will:

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour. On and off the field, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me
- Ensure all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA.

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach
- Required to attend a FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club. In addition:
- My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn

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How do we achieve Respect?

For clubs, the Respect programme includes four practical steps to improve behaviour – on the pitch and on the side-lines – in and at matches throughout the country:

Step 1: Codes of Conduct

Step 2: Designated Spectators' Area

Step 3: The captain takes responsibility

Step 4: The referee manages the game.

Step one:

Codes of Conduct

Codes of Conduct aren't new and are already in use by some clubs (this is mandatory for FA Charter Standard Clubs). Some are successful; some are forgotten and are not acted upon. Respect brings them to life. How? By supporting and strengthening the Codes of Conduct with possible consequences. There is little point in having a set of rules if no action is taken if and when they're broken.

There are Respect Codes of Conduct for:

- Young Players
- Adult Players
- Spectators and Parents/Carers
- Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials
- Match Officials.

Each Code explains that actions can be taken if the Code is broken. Although your County FA or The FA will deal with cases of reported misconduct, clubs and leagues also have a role to play in dealing with poor behaviour from players, officials or spectators. This can range from education, mentoring, official warnings, suspension or even exclusion from the club. For further guidance on these specific actions speak directly to your league or County FA.

All the Respect Codes of Conduct can be downloaded from www.TheFA.com/Respect - or from the Respect DVD your club should have received.

Respect works on placing responsibility for their actions on individuals: break your Code, and bear the consequences.

Codes of Conduct:

Your club's responsibilities:

Each Respect Code of Conduct explains that action can and will be taken if the Code is broken.

Your club has three main responsibilities around the Codes:

1. To ensure everyone within the club (club members), whatever their role, has read, agreed and signed up to their relevant Code – and understood the actions which could be taken if Codes are broken.
2. To collect and retain the signed agreement forms at the foot of each Code.
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks 'their' Code. If your club hasn't used Codes of Conduct before – or has Codes without consequences – this needs discussion, so your members understand how the Codes work and what their responsibilities are. Your league or County FA Respect Lead Officer will be able to give you some further guidance in this area.

Clubs which already have Codes of Conduct:

If you are an FA Charter Standard Club, and/or you already have your own club

Codes of Conduct, it is advised that you adopt the new Respect Codes or revise your existing codes to include any elements you may have missed. It is suggested that it may be helpful to display the Respect Codes of Conduct by in dressing rooms, pavilions, club houses and if applicable, displaying the Spectator Code publicly or handing down the side-lines. The important difference is ensuring

your club members understand and appreciate what can happen if Codes are broken. That way, there should be no subsequent debate because they didn't understand the consequences of breaking a Code.

Imposing Sanctions

The Codes identify a range of sanctions which can be applied in the event of misconduct or poor behaviour. Whilst your County FA or The FA will deal with reported misconduct, clubs also have a role to play in educating its membership as to what is – and what isn't – acceptable behaviour and taking action when the Codes are broken. It's important for Clubs to be clear about what it expects from its members and to educate people when guidance is required. Should this guidance be disregarded then the management of a Club has the right to implement sanctions against offenders. Such action should:

- Be fair and consistent – treating people in the same way regardless of their position in the club
- Be proportionate to the offence
- Be progressively more serious for repeat offenders
- Follow a process which allows people to know when they have broken a Code of Conduct and provides them with an opportunity to explain their actions

Step two:

Designated Spectators' Areas

One of the key elements of Respect in youth football is the creation of designated areas for spectators. This area can be marked by an additional line, the use of cones, a roped-off area or use of a temporary spectators' barrier. The areas literally draw the line which parents and spectators should not cross and research has shown it to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials. If using the Respect barriers endorsed by The FA the ideal arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on one side of the pitch for fans and parents/carers from both sides to stand behind. This allows the coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players get instructions from just one side of the pitch. You may prefer an alternative form of marking a Designated Spectators' Area, but you must ensure this is safe for both the spectators and the players. The FA strongly recommends you obtain formal agreement from the facility/pitch provider about which method of marking is most suitable for the pitch, before beginning any work or buying any new equipment. The safety of the players, officials and spectators is paramount. To help implement the Designated Spectators' Area, The FA has endorsed a Respect Barrier Kit, which is available from www.respectzone.com and comprises:

- 120 metres of specialised Respect branded tape (2x 60 metres lengths)
- A complete set of safety poles
- A simple to use and effective reeling system
- Assembly kit comprising of mallet, securing pegs and instructions
- Lightweight carry bag

The Spectators' Area should start two metres from the touchline on both sides of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised however that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made. Although The FA recommends the use of Designated Spectators' Areas as best practice, Youth Leagues can themselves introduce a requirement for the marking and use of Designated Spectators' Areas at club venues within their League rules – although the actual specification of the areas should be determined by local arrangements. Should a club fail to make acceptable arrangements for a Designated Spectators' Area, a League may consider issuing a sanction against them. This should be fair and proportionate – perhaps starting with a warning by the League. The absence of a Designated Spectators' Area should not result in the cancellation

or abandonment of a game.

Step three:

The captain takes responsibility.

Often problems start at matches when individual players are abusive towards the referee, which escalates into several players confronting the referee at the same time – then it's anarchy. Respect aims to stop this cycle before it starts. Only the captain can challenge decisions made by the referee and the captain needs to manage his/her team to ensure this is always observed. The advice to captains is: As a captain, you have no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game, but you do have a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of your team. To promote Respect the referee will work with you, as the team captain, to manage the players and the game effectively. Even if you are some way away from an incident when the referee feels he/she needs you involved in a discussion with a player, the referee will call you over. This will ensure that, as the team captain, you remain the point of contact for the referee. The type of behaviour which often gives rise to problems in matches, and where captains and referees need to work together, can be described as 'harassment and challenging behaviour' towards the referee.

Here are some examples of each type of behaviour, which are also contained in the captain's leaflet: Harassment:

- Running towards the referee in an aggressive manner.
- Players surrounding the referee to protest a decision.
- Repeatedly asking questions about decisions in an attempt to influence the referee or undermine his/her responsibilities.

Challenging:

- Passing comment to other players about a referee's decision-making.
- Repeatedly moaning at the referee about decisions.
- Gestures that obviously are made in a derogatory manner, such as a shaking of the head or waving of the hand.

Captains have been asked to:

- Ensure they wear a Respect captain's armband. These will be provided by your league to your club.
- Together with the opposition captain, make themselves known to the referee before the game. He/she will ask if the captains if they are clear about your responsibilities.

Ensure all players understand what they can/cannot do in relation to the referee and what is meant by 'unwanted behaviour'. No-one's trying to curb enthusiasm – just instil more discipline. This can only benefit the specific match and football as a whole.

- Ensure vice-captains (who should be appointed one if there isn't one) are aware of these rules, in case captains are unavailable for a game, or have to leave the field.
- Ensure every player in the team has signed the Respect Code of Conduct.
- Visit www.TheFA.com/Respect for further updates and tips.

Captains in children's football

- In some cases a youth team may not have an individual that is mature enough to take on this enhanced captaincy role. In such cases a common sense approach should be taken which may involve the referee working with a team manager rather than an on-field captain.

Step four:

The referee manages the game

There is a separate Respect information Guide for referees, which incorporates the following main information in relation to the above: As the referee, you are expected to work with the team captains to manage the players and the game effectively. You must control the game by applying the

Laws of the Game and deal firmly with any open show of dissent by players. (e.g. not move away from the incident, but stay and deal with it). While recognising that players may on occasions make an appeal for a decision (e.g. a throw-in, corner or goal-kick), it is important you distinguish these from an act of dissent which should be punished with a caution

You should use a stepped approach, where appropriate, to managing players:

1. Free-kick
2. Free-kick with quiet word
3. Free-kick with public admonishment (this is the time referees should consider using the captain to emphasise the message)
4. Yellow card.

The stepped approach does not negate the fact that as the referee, you have the authority within the Laws of the Game to issue disciplinary sanctions without recourse to the captain(s), including issuing a yellow or red card where the Laws require it. Even if the captain is some distance from an incident, but you feel you need him/her involved in a discussion with a player, you should call the captain over. This will ensure the captain remains your point of contact during the game. These guidelines are an additional preventative/supportive tool for referees to manage games effectively. The key is for referees to use captains in a more visible way