



# Flitwick Eagles Football Club Club Values & Codes of Conduct

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## Forward

Young people are still finding their way in life and are impressionable, so it's important that any coach/manager working with any age group of players is able to lead by positive example.

Everyone reacts slightly differently in different moments, but it's important to demonstrate high standards of behaviour in your own interactions. Be thoughtful and in control of your emotions when communicating with players because the message you think you've given and the message being received can often be misconstrued. If that is a negative message, it can have a detrimental impact on a young person.

As a football coach/manager, you are a role model, so I strongly believe it is crucial to lead by positive example to the younger generation.

As a coach/manager, your job is to help give young people confidence. The more you know about the players you are working with, the more you can help them enjoy their football and perform to the best of their ability. Think about them as people first, before players.

Getting to know about an individual's background, family and their personal circumstance can help you to understand their needs and to better motivate them.

Having a friendly disposition goes a long way in making you approachable. If you can demonstrate you have a real interest in developing and improving your players as people and footballers, it will make them feel important and encourage them to show their best.

As a team Manager/coach, you by your actions and conduct, set the example for your players, parents/guardians and spectators, and set a good example of all times.

Gareth Southgate (England Head Coach)

*Finally, our values are what makes this club great. Demonstrating our values at all times is key to ensuring a safe, enjoyable and fulfilling experience for everyone involved with the club, young players, coaches, managers, volunteers, parents/guardians and spectators alike.*

# Club Values

## Enjoyment

We shall seek to ensure every child has fun, enjoys themselves and develops a love for football.

## Attitude (Respect)

We are committed to providing a positive environment in which children can develop their football skills. We shall treat others how we wish to be treated ourselves. We shall promote an ethos of self-discipline and respect.

## Goals (Teamwork)

We shall seek to develop players by working together in teams. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by the achievement of realistic goals set for the entire squad.

## Loyalty

We shall seek to reward commitment to the team and club in all activities. We shall develop players who remain loyal and not seek to replace them with experienced players from other clubs.

## Equality

We shall seek to provide every child with the same opportunity to participate regardless of gender, ability, race or social status.

## Sportsmanship

We shall promote a sense of fair play in all activities. We shall become humble in victory, and gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.



## Flitwick Eagles Code of Conduct for Managers & Coaches

In your position as a Manager or coach, you're likely to be one of the most important role models in a young person's life. Your role in helping children to develop as footballers and young people should never be underestimated. The way you act, the way you behave and the time you commit play a massive part in their lives.

At the youth level, our first and foremost aim **should always be that everybody enjoys their football and has fun**. The majority of players are at school all week and choose to play to spend time outdoors, to get some fresh air and to enjoy themselves.

Sometimes they're happy to learn, sometimes they just want to kick a ball around. Everybody should get to play, enjoy the game, have fun with their friends and grow their love of the sport.

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a safe and positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game.



In your position as Coach/Manager, ...

- Ensure that the goals are in good condition and pegged down appropriately before each game.
- Ensure that the respect barriers are put up before spectators and parents arrive and ensure that parents and spectators stay behind the respect barriers.
- Ensure that your certifications are up to date with regard to your suitability to work with children. This includes Safeguarding, First-aid and DBS.
- Abide by the club values and rules and demonstrate them at all times.
- Read and abide by the Laws of the Game and assist your players in understanding them.
- Read, understand and be aware of your responsibilities as laid down in your League Handbook.
- Ensure the codes of conduct are upheld and visible to all players, parents and coaches.
- Use your position to set a positive example for the young people you are responsible for.
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators.
- You should actively support referees at matches both on the pitch, e.g. in supporting their decisions.
- Respect the match official's decision.
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour.



In your position as Coach/Manager...

- Be gracious in victory and defeat.
- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning.
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying.
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Ensure all activities are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity.
- Cooperate fully with others in football (e.g. opposition managers/coaches, officials, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.
- Coaches/Managers/Teachers must place the well being and safety of each player above all other considerations including the development of performance.
- Ensure that each player is correctly dressed with the necessary safety equipment, shin pads etc., before being allowed to play.



- Get treatment for an injured player immediately and cooperate fully with other specialists in the best interests of the player.
- Neither physically or mentally push children beyond their abilities. The game is of minor consideration when compared to the child's future health and well being.
- Encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance. Never condone unacceptable behaviour by not acting.
- Always be prompt, courteous and correct when dealing with the League Officials, opposition Managers, Referees and Assistant Referees. Confirm venues, times and dates etc., as early as possible and at reasonable times during the day.
- Check that you have the necessary equipment, documentation and first aid equipment before you leave for the match or training.





A positive environment is essential in order to build the confidence and self-esteem of young players. As a coach/Manager....

- Highlight the things people do well, rather than criticise mistakes or losses
- Be thoughtful and in control of your emotions when communicating with players because the message you think you've given and the message being received can often be misconstrued. If that is a negative message, it can have a detrimental impact on a young person.
- As a coach/Manager, your job is to help give young people confidence.
- Aim to foster a culture of encouragement and belief, rather than expectation.
- You should create an atmosphere of positivity and set the right tone of encouragement amongst your team.
- Lead by positive example.
- Understand your players.
- Build a positive team around you.
- Instil an 'anything is possible' attitude.



If you as a coach/manager are **refereeing a match** or running the line:

- 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 team officials.
- Support your match official colleagues at all times.
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour from players and team officials.
- 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 each match.
- If applicable, complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which you officiate.



## Disciplinary considerations for coaches/managers

- Understand that if you do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by your club, County FA or The FA:

You 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 or be sacked by the club.

If applicable you may be:

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

IN ADDITION: Your FA Coaching Licence may be withdrawn.



## Flitwick Eagles Code of Conduct for Young Players

As a young player when playing football always play to the best of your ability and for the benefit of your team,

- Play for the 'fun of it', not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play well for yourself and your team, your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
- Respect your team-mates, the other team, the referee and your coach.
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee and do not argue with the referee or assistant referee.
- Be gracious in victory and defeat.
- Shake hands and/or participate in "three cheers" with the other team at the end of the game.
- Listen and respond to what your coach tells you.
- Understand that a coach has to do what is best for the team and not one individual player.
- Talk to someone you trust or the club welfare officer if you are unhappy about anything at your club.





## Disciplinary considerations for young players

Understand that if you do not follow the code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by your club, county FA or The FA:

You May be:

- Required to apologise to your 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:

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



## Flitwick Eagles Code of Conduct for Spectators

- Remember that children play for FUN.
- Remember children are involved in football for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Stay behind the respect barrier when watching the game.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success.
- Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them.
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from.
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area.
- 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.
- Support positively and offer players encouragement not criticism.
- Never engage in, or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.



## **Flitwick Eagles Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians & Carers**

- Stand behind the respect barrier while watching the game.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in football.
- Remember children are involved in football for their enjoyment not yours.
- Encourage your child to play to the Laws of the Game and not to argue with Referees and other Officials.
- Teach your child that honest effort is more important than victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Turn losing into winning by helping your child work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposition.
- Do not question the Referee's judgement or honesty.
- Remember he/she is only human with the same feelings as you and, like you, sometimes may make an honest error.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's football.
- Recognise the value and importance of coaches who are all volunteers. They give children their time and resources to provide football for your child.
- Read the Laws of the Game to understand better what you are looking at and commenting on.

## **Disciplinary considerations for spectators, Parents, Guardians & Carers**

Understand that if you do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken:

You may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official.
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer.
- Required to meet with the club committee.
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course.
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club.
- Requested by the club not to attend future games.
- Suspended or have your club membership removed.
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents.

IN ADDITION:

- The FA/County FA may impose a fine and/or suspension on the club.



## References:

No.	Description	Link
1	Flitwick Eagles Club Values	<a href="https://www.flitwickeagles.org/blank-page-3">https://www.flitwickeagles.org/blank-page-3</a>
2	Grassroots code of conduct	<a href="https://www.teamgrassroots.co.uk/code-of-conduct-2/">https://www.teamgrassroots.co.uk/code-of-conduct-2/</a>
3	We Only do positive, Handbook for coaches	<a href="https://npvfootdev.co.uk/we-only-do-positive-handbook-for-coaches/">https://npvfootdev.co.uk/we-only-do-positive-handbook-for-coaches/</a>
4	Tournament pack guide	<a href="https://www.teamgrassroots.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GRF-Tournament-pack.pdf">https://www.teamgrassroots.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GRF-Tournament-pack.pdf</a>
5	Understanding the discipline process: What can we do?	<a href="https://link.service.thefa.com/u/nrd.php?p=RCDqHZvbev_118409_2658128_1_3&amp;ems_l=3717307&amp;d=MjU5Mjk4MTA0%7CUkNEcUhadmJldg%3D%3D%7C&amp;esuh=_11_17654dd3fe346f73af265b962dd575f3432d3d3893840e2b735df6a05e70d341">https://link.service.thefa.com/u/nrd.php?p=RCDqHZvbev_118409_2658128_1_3&amp;ems_l=3717307&amp;d=MjU5Mjk4MTA0%7CUkNEcUhadmJldg%3D%3D%7C&amp;esuh=_11_17654dd3fe346f73af265b962dd575f3432d3d3893840e2b735df6a05e70d341</a>
6	FA Respect Code of Conduct	<a href="https://www.thefa.com/~media/019A1BD1FDD040458A6F7A8E9C49D394.ashx">https://www.thefa.com/~media/019A1BD1FDD040458A6F7A8E9C49D394.ashx</a>
7	FA Respect Code of Conduct Young Players	<a href="https://www.thefa.com/~media/thefacom-new/files/get-involved/respect/fa-respect-code-of-conduct-young-players.ashx">https://www.thefa.com/~media/thefacom-new/files/get-involved/respect/fa-respect-code-of-conduct-young-players.ashx</a>

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