

# I RESPECT THE STANDARD

## THE GRASSROOTS CODE FOR YOUTH FOOTBALL



**We're here to enjoy ourselves...win, lose or draw.**

**To help make football more enjoyable for all I should:**

- Remember that football is about enjoyment, not just winning.
- Encourage others and behave well.
- Bring a positive attitude to training and matches.
- Recognise when my team-mates give respect, work together, or try their best.



**We always treat others as we'd like to be treated. To give respect at football I must:**

- Always use respectful language and actions.
- Not argue with the referee, coach, and officials, and accept their decisions about football and my behaviour.
- Show fair play by shaking hands with our opponents whether we win, lose or draw.
- Tidy up after myself and take care of the facilities we use.



**We embrace our differences, football is a game for everyone.**

**To be inclusive at football I must:**

- Welcome everyone, whoever they are and whatever their background or ability.
- Involve everyone and always be kind.
- Treat everyone fairly and tell a trusted adult if this doesn't happen.
- Celebrate everyone's good play, effort and success.



**We're a team, on and off the pitch. To help us bond as a team I should:**

- Encourage my team-mates if they make a mistake.
- Try my best and help my team, by being positive and supportive.
- Play fairly, without cheating, diving, complaining, or wasting time.
- Accept that I may not be able to play in my favourite position all the time, or that I may need to take a break to give someone else playing time.
- Recognise that if I'm the Captain, I need to try hard to set a positive example for others to follow.



**LOVE FOOTBALL.  
PROTECT THE GAME.**





**We all have a role in safeguarding children. To help keep everyone safe I must:**

- Remember football is about making friends, learning new skills and of course, being active!
- Take responsibility, encourage others, and keep it positive.
- Know that I have a right:
  - To feel safe online and offline.
  - To have healthy relationships with appropriate boundaries.
  - Not to feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
  - Not to be bullied, harassed, or intimidated.
  - Not to be treated unfairly.

**If this doesn't sound like your football experience, speak to an adult you trust.**



**I understand that my Club, League or County FA may take action, that could include:**

- Giving me a verbal warning.
- Inviting me to a meeting to explain my behaviour.
- Warning me about my behaviour.
- Asking that I complete an FA education course.
- Suspending me, meaning I do not take part in games for a period of time.
- Removing my registration, meaning I can't play for my team again.
- Fining and/or suspending my Club.



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