

A.F.C. DARWEN



CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the responsibility of club officials, managers, players, parents and spectators to comply with the FA Respect Code of Conduct. The following pages explain, role by role, what these responsibilities are. They are intended to ensure everyone enjoys the sport of football and provide players and match officials with a safe environment in which to learn and develop.

Additional Club Policies/Procedures etc. include:

- Club Membership**
- Club Mission Statement**
- Child Protection**
- Anti-Bullying**
- Equality**
- Whistleblowing**
- Social Networking**
- Photography**
- Goal Post Safety**
- Complaints Procedure**
- Volunteer Recruitment**

Code of Conduct: Adult Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

Players tell us they want a referee for every match, yet 7,000 match officials drop out each season because of the abuse and intimidation they receive on and off the pitch. **Respect** your referee today and you may just get one for every match this season. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for players at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere to the Laws of the Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote fair play and behave within the spirit of the Laws of the Game
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Avoid bullying, intimidation and poor behaviour
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manager with respect
- Ask my team captain to talk to the referee if I have a problem relating to the game
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Shake hands with the opposing team and the match officials at the end of every game

I understand that breaches of the code may result in action being taken by my County FA and /or The FA.

Code of Conduct: Young Players

It is important everyone behaves themselves when playing football.

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 do my best, even if we're losing or the other team is stronger
- Play fairly - I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- Never be rude to my team-mates, the other team, the referee, spectators or my coach/team manager
- Do what the referee tells me
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen to my coach/team manager and respect what he/she says
- Talk to someone I trust, for example my parents or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the code, action may be taken against me.

The Captain's role

As your team's captain, you have a vital role to play in helping us achieve the number one priority for footballers in The FA's biggest-ever survey of grassroots football - a referee for every game.

Thousands of referees are dropping out each season because of the abuse and intimidation they receive. It ruins games and can cause matches to be abandoned. Then we've all lost.

Captain taking responsibility 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. To find out more about how referees and captains need to work together as part of Respect, **How Captains can help to instill Respect:**

- Ensure you wear a Respect captain's armband - these will be provided by your league to your club
- Together with your opposition captain, make yourself known to the referee before the game. He/she will ask if you are clear about your responsibilities
- Ensure all your 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 instill more discipline. This can only benefit your match - and football as a whole
- Ensure your vice-captain (appoint one if you haven't got one) is aware of these rules, in case you are unavailable for a game, or have to leave the field
- Ensure every player in your team has signed the Respect Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct: Coaches

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In The FA's survey of over 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included both the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour by over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sidelines. The FA's Respect programme is aimed at tackling unacceptable behaviour across the whole game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for coaches, team managers and club officials at all times. **I will:**

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the Laws of the Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- 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.

When working with players, 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 the parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Refrain from, and refuse to 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, experience, 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 breaches of the code may result in action being taken by my County FA and /or The FA.

Code of Conduct: Spectators

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 by everyone in a safe and positive environment. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times. **I will:**

- Remain outside the field of play and behind the Designated Spectator Area (where provided)
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success

In addition, when attending youth games, I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Let the coaches do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition and match officials
- Never criticise a player for making a mistake -mistakes are part of learning

Note:

AFC Darwen does not accept heavy defeats being shouted about across social media, as it always puts the interest of young people first irrespective of whether they are AFC Darwen player

I understand that breaches of the code may result in action being taken by my County FA and /or The FA.

Failure to adhere by the FA Respect code could lead to the following sanctions:

Parents, Guardians and Carers

AFC Darwen does not accept heavy defeats being shouted about across social media, as it always puts the interest of young people first irrespective of whether they are AFC Darwen players. If a parent, guardian or carer does not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by AFC Darwen, County FA, league or The FA:

The person concerned may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from AFC Darwen or league official
- Required to meet with the AFC Darwen Committee, league or County FA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by an AFC Darwen official
- Requested by AFC Darwen not to attend future games

In addition:

The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on AFC Darwen.

Players

The person concerned may:

- Be required to apologise to his/her team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager



- Receive a formal warning from the Manager or AFC Darwen Committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave AFC Darwen

Adult players may also:

- Receive a written warning from the club
- Be required to attend an FA education course
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined

In addition:

- AFC Darwen, County FA or The FA may make a young person's parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against AFC Darwen

The person concerned may also be:

Be suspended or have his/her AFC Darwen club membership removed and required to leave AFC Darwen along with any dependents.

Coaches, team managers or club officials

The person concerned 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 an FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending 4 matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club.