

Whitford City Football Club



Coaches, Players, Parents and Spectator Code of conduct

1. Preface

The Whitford City Football Club (“WCFC”) or the (“Club”) promotes mutual respect, tolerance, and quality football development. All members of WCFC have a responsibility to display high standards of behaviour at training and during matches, to ensure the enjoyment of everyone involved including players, parents, spectators, coaches, and officials.

The guidelines in this document have been prepared for all parties involved with the Club and with the focus of developing our players, to the best possible level.

2. Coaches

Coaches are an integral part of the club and as such, it is essential that coaches demonstrate the highest possible standards of behaviour. As the face of the club to players, parents and opposing teams, coaches are expected to demonstrate professionalism in their behaviour and act as role models to their players. A coach must ensure a safe and positive environment for the enjoyment of all involved. Below is a summary of the behaviour expected from all WCFC coaches:

I. At training

- Coaches should always be at training at least 15 minutes before the start of their session.
- Coaches will take good care of all Club equipment and wear appropriate Club apparel;
- Coaches will follow the advice of a physician/sports trainer, where available, to determine when an injured player can recommence training or playing;
- During sessions, coaches will not use their mobile phones, for calls and messages, unless in cases of emergency;
- Coaches should refrain from communicating with parents during training sessions as this detracts from the quality of the session, is disruptive and unprofessional;
- Coaches will display self-respect and respect for players and parents; and
- Coaches will endeavour to provide periodic feedback on player development or general feedback for the team.

II. During Matches, in public

As ambassadors of the Club, Coaches' behaviour is expected to be at the highest level, including interaction with the opponent, referees, officials, players, parents and spectators..

- Coaches are and should be ROLE MODELS;
- Club apparel shall be worn during matches, warm up and warm down;
- Coaches should be mindful of their behaviour in public such that it does not negatively impact their reputation or that of the Club;
- Coaches should identify a clearly defined technical area on the side of the pitch and invite all players not on the pitch to stay in that area during the game, unless undertaking a warm up. With the exception of managers and trainers, parents and spectators should not stand in or in close proximity to the technical area;
- Except for the team manager, coaches should refrain from engaging in conversation with parents or spectator as that may impair their decisions as well as his/her ability to adequately support the team during the game; and
- Coaches should refrain from negative comments directed to or regarding officials (referees) or opponents and should always propose peaceful resolution of potential discussions on the pitch.

In addition to the above, coaches should also adopt behaviour that:

- Reflects that players participate for fun and winning is only part of that fun;
- Respects all player's individuality and helps them reach their own full potential.
- Is fair, considerate, and honest with all players;
- Is reasonable in your expectations of players' time, energy, and enthusiasm;
- Encourages children to play fairly and within the rules;
- Refrains from any form of abuse directed at players, coaches, referees, parents, officials, parents, or spectators.
- Ensures that they act with professionalism and treat all players, coaches, referees, officials, administrators, parents and spectators with respect and courtesy. Encourage players to do the same;
- Focuses on player's effort and performance, not the score;
- Does not ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or not winning;
- Does not criticise or ridicule any child's performance after a game;
- Refrains from crude, foul, derogatory, offensive, or abusive language; and
- Respects the rights, dignity and worth of everyone involved regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

3. Players

Players are an important part of the club and as such it is essential that players follow the Code of Conduct.

I. At training

Players should arrive at training at least 10 minutes before the start of the session. Boots, shin guards and other appropriate gear should be on and the player should be ready to start training, on time. During training, players should strive to be active and motivated, as this will help the whole team to improve.

Players must listen to the coach at training and communicate respectfully about all elements of training and games.

If the player is not able to make it to training, the Coach needs to be given ample notice.

II. During matches

Players are to arrive to games at least 20 minutes before kick-off, or as communicated by the Coach. If a player cannot come to the game, the coach should be given reasonable notice, with an explanation or reason. Players should listen to the coach and avoid engaging in conversation with parents, spectators, opponents, or officials during the game.

Players must behave in the spirit of fair play before, during and after the match. Players must show respect toward the opponent, referees, officials, spectators, and teammates. Players should learn to win and lose graciously.

In addition to the above, players should endeavour to:

- Work hard for themselves and their team;
- Play to the best of their ability;
- Always play fairly and within the rules;
- Co-operate with teammates and their coach and treat them with courtesy and respect;
- Thank the opposition and referees after the game;
- Never argue with the referee and respect their decisions;
- Refrain from any form of abuse directed at teammates, coaches, opponents, referees, parents, officials, parents and/or spectators;
- Refrain from crude, foul, derogatory, offensive, or abusive language; and
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of everyone involved, regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

4. Parents or Spectators

Parents and spectators are an integral and welcomed part of WCFC. As such parents and spectators have a responsibility to support their child's footballing activities in a positive manner both on and off the pitch. It is essential that parents and spectators act appropriately and demonstrate high standards of behaviours as they are to act as role models for children in their interactions with players, coaches, officials, and other parents and spectators.

Supporting their child and their team is important and natural for parents, but this needs to be done in a positive way to provide a safe environment and ensure enjoyment for everyone involved.

I. At training and during matches

- Rude and derogatory comments from by parents and/or spectators will not be tolerated;
- Parents and spectators are not allowed on the sports field during the match. They should stand outside of the designated technical area identified by the coach prior the start of the game. At training, parents and spectators can watch training from a respectful distance; and
- Parents and spectators are not to advise the coach on how to do his or her job, either during matches or training. Parents and spectators should refrain from “coaching” their child or any other players during training or the game, as it is distractive for the players on the field and interfere with set plays.

In addition to the above, parents and spectators are expected to:

- Remember that players participate in sport for their own enjoyment and development, first and foremost;
- Encourage players to participate but not force or pressure them;
- Focus on player’s effort and performance, rather than the score;
- Encourage players to play fairly and within the rules;
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or not winning;
- Never criticise or ridicule the performance of any player from either their team or the opposition team;
- Treat all players, coaches, referees, parents, spectators, officials, administrators, parents with respect and courtesy;
- Never argue with the referee. Respect their decisions and teach players to do the same;
- Refrain from any form of abuse directed at players, coaches, referees, officials, parents, or spectators; and
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of everyone involved regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

All participants of WCFC shall always abide by the Club’s Code of Conduct.

Inappropriate behaviour that is determined to violate this Code of Conduct shall result in disciplinary action by the WCFC committee, up to and including, without limitation, expulsion from the game or field, and expulsion from WCFC.

Additionally, players, parents/guardians and coaches may also be subject to sanctions from Football West.