



## Fairford Youth Football Club (FYFC) Behaviour Policy

At Fairford Youth Football Club, we are committed to promoting a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants. Our aim is to foster a positive experience for everyone involved in youth football, and we take the wellbeing of all our players, coaches, parents, and spectators seriously. This Behaviour Policy outlines the expectations and responsibilities for all members of the club, focusing on ensuring fairness, respect, and enjoyment in the game.

### 1. General Expectations

- **Respect and Integrity:** All participants must respect the values of Fairford Youth Football Club, including fairness, honesty, and integrity in every interaction, whether on or off the field.
- **Zero Tolerance for Discrimination:** Discrimination of any kind based on race, gender, religion, ability, or other personal characteristics is not tolerated. We promote diversity and inclusivity at every level.
- **Health and Safety:** The safety and wellbeing of players, coaches, and spectators are paramount. Any behaviour that compromises the safety of others will not be accepted.

### 2. Codes of Conduct

#### 2.1 Player Code of Conduct

As a player of Fairford Youth Football Club, you are expected to:

1. **Play Fair:** Always play to the best of your ability, respecting the rules and spirit of the game.
2. **Respect Coaches and Officials:** Listen to and follow the instructions of your coach and respect the decisions of match officials, even if you disagree.
3. **Respect Teammates and Opponents:** Be supportive of your teammates and show respect to your opponents, their coaches and spectators. The game is about teamwork and sportsmanship.
4. **Good Sportsmanship:** Celebrate success with dignity and accept defeat graciously. Avoid any unsporting behaviour, such as arguing, swearing, or fighting.
5. **Commitment:** Attend training sessions, matches, and club events regularly, and notify your coach if you cannot attend.
6. **Positive Attitude:** Maintain a positive and resilient attitude, both in victory and defeat.
7. **Keep Your Focus:** Stay focused on the game and avoid distractions like mobile phones during matches or training.

8. **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Prioritise your own and others' mental health. If you are struggling, talk to a coach or someone you trust.

## 2.2 Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct

As a parent or spectator of Fairford Youth Football Club, you are expected to:

1. **Respect Players, Coaches, and Officials:** Show respect to all players, coaches, referees, and fellow spectators at all times. Encourage positive behaviour and sportsmanship.
2. **Avoid Coaching from the Sidelines:** Trust the coaches to do their job and avoid giving instructions to players during matches unless specifically asked.
3. **Support, Don't Criticise:** Focus on encouraging the players, not criticising them. Negative comments directed at players, coaches, or officials are unacceptable.
4. **Respect Club Policies:** Follow all club rules, including those related to spectator behaviour, and maintain a safe environment for everyone.
5. **Be A Role Model:** Your behaviour in the stands reflects on the club and the players. Demonstrate good sportsmanship and a positive attitude at all times.
6. **Safeguarding:** Support a culture of child safeguarding and raise any concerns you may have with the appropriate club officials.

## 2.3 Coach and Club Officials Code of Conduct

As a coach or club official of Fairford Youth Football Club, you are expected to:

1. **Lead by Example:** Be a role model for the players by demonstrating good sportsmanship, respect, and integrity at all times.
2. **Create a Positive Learning Environment:** Provide a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all players to learn and develop.
3. **Respect All Players:** Treat all players with dignity and respect, considering their individual needs and developmental stages.
4. **Communicate Effectively:** Maintain open and honest communication with players, parents, fellow coaches, and other club officials. Provide feedback that is constructive and encourages improvement.
5. **Prioritise Player Welfare:** Safeguard the physical and mental wellbeing of players. Be mindful of potential concerns regarding players' health, both physical and psychological.
6. **Encourage Enjoyment:** Ensure that football is fun and enjoyable. Foster a positive atmosphere where players are motivated and feel supported in their growth.
7. **Maintain Professionalism:** Always behave professionally and ethically, both during and outside of club activities.
8. **Support Club Values and Policies:** Adhere to the policies, values, and guidelines set by the club, ensuring consistency in upholding its ethos. This includes promoting inclusivity, diversity, and fair play.
9. **Ensure Accountability:** Actively participate in promoting transparency and accountability within the club. If you notice any inappropriate behaviour or breaches of the club's code of conduct, address it in accordance with the club's disciplinary procedures.

10. **Respect the Roles of Others:** Recognise and support the roles of other club officials, volunteers, parents, and players. Collaboration and mutual respect are essential to creating a cohesive club environment.

### 3. Support for Neurodivergent Players

At Fairford Youth Football Club, we are committed to supporting all players, including those who are neurodivergent. We understand that every player has unique needs, and we work to create an inclusive environment that helps all players thrive, both on and off the pitch.

#### 3.1 Understanding Neurodivergence

Neurodivergent players may include individuals with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, sensory processing differences, and other cognitive or developmental differences. We value and respect the diversity neurodivergent players bring to our club.

#### 3.2 Adjustments and Support

To ensure neurodivergent players can fully participate and enjoy their football experience, we may:

- **Provide Clear Instructions:** Coaches will use clear, concise, and consistent communication, making sure instructions are easily understood.
- **Be Flexible:** We will adapt training and match expectations as needed to accommodate neurodivergent players' needs. This may include adjusting drills, allowing extra time, or incorporating specific strategies to help them feel comfortable.
- **Sensory Considerations:** We recognize that some players may have sensory sensitivities. Where possible, we will create a sensory-friendly environment (e.g., reducing loud noises or offering breaks if needed).
- **Social Support:** We encourage social inclusion and provide opportunities for neurodivergent players to engage in a supportive environment. If appropriate, we may offer a buddy system with a more experienced player to help with social integration.
- **Communication with Parents:** We will maintain an open dialogue with parents of neurodivergent players to understand their child's needs better and provide the necessary support.

#### 3.3 Raising Awareness

Fairford Youth Football Club is committed to educating coaches, players, and parents about neurodiversity. This includes signposting to further information for coaches on how to best support neurodivergent players and creating awareness within the club about different neurological conditions.

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## **4. Disciplinary Procedures**

If a player's behaviour is not reflective of the Player Code of Conduct, the coach will follow the process below:

### **Stage One:**

- Discuss the behaviour with the player's parents/carers;
- Ask the player's parents to attend all training and matches, both home and away for an agreed time period;
- Agree a period of time for an improvement in behaviour to be seen.

### **Stage Two:**

If an improvement in behaviour is not seen, the player will receive a written warning.

### **Stage Three:**

A second and final written warning will be issued if there is still no improvement in behaviour. The player will also receive a temporary suspension from matches. The length of the suspension will be decided by the coach.

### **Stage Four:**

If significant improvement in player behaviour has not been seen in stages one to three, the player will be asked to leave the club.

Failure to adhere to this Behaviour Policy by coaches, club officials, parents and spectators may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:

- Verbal or written warnings;
- Temporary suspension from training or matches;
- Permanent exclusion from the club in extreme cases.

Any disciplinary action will be determined in consultation with the player, parent, coach and club committee, ensuring fairness and due process.

## **5. Conclusion**

Fairford Youth Football Club is committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all players, coaches, parents, and spectators. By adhering to this Behaviour Policy, we ensure that football remains a fun, inclusive, and respectful sport for all involved.

