

## Club Code of Conduct Policy

Football is the national game. All those involved with the game at every level, and whether as a player, match official, coach, owner or administrator, have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act according to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game is, and remains, high. This code applies to all those involved in football under the auspices of 'The Football Association'.

### **Community**

Football, at all levels, is a vital part of the community. Football will take into account community feeling when making decisions.

### **Equality**

Football is opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent it, in whatever form, from being expressed.

### **Participants**

Football recognises the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who play, those who coach or help in any way, and those who officiate, as well as administrators and supporters. Football is committed to appropriate consultation.

### **Young People**

Football acknowledges the extent of its influence over young people and pledges to set a positive example.

### **Propriety**

Football acknowledges that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative behaviour within the game, and will not tolerate corruption or improper practices.

### **Trust and Respect**

Football will uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organisations.

### **Violence**

Football rejects the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game.

### **Fairness**

Football is committed to fairness in its dealings with all involved in the game.

### **Integrity and Fair Play**

Football is committed to the principle of playing to win consistent with Fair Play.

### **Code of Conduct for Coaches**

Coaches are the key to the ethics of football. Their concept and their attitude directly affect the behaviour of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate themselves from a "win-at-all-costs" attitude. Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of the club, parent or coach.

Set out below is Abbeymead Rovers Football Club' Code of Conduct, which forms the benchmark for all involved in coaching:

- Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
- Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- Coaches must develop a good working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
- Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, parent) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
- Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour.
- Coaches must not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

### **Code of Conduct for Players**

Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game. But not winning at any cost – Fair Play and respect for all others in the game is most important.

Abbeymead Rovers Football Club expect players to have:

#### **Obligations towards the game**

- Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- Make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, techniques, tactics and stamina.
- Give maximum effort and to perform to the best of their ability throughout the game.
- Not use inappropriate language.

#### **Obligations towards one's own team**

- Make every effort consistent with Fair Play and the Laws of the Game to help his own team win.
- Resist any influence, which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning.
- Show respect and give encouragement to all team members, irrespective of individual ability.

#### **Respect for the Laws of the Game**

- Abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the game.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
- Resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

#### **Respect towards Opponents**

- Treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
- Safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents.

#### **Respect towards the Match Officials**

- Accept the decision of the Match Official without protest.
- Avoid words or actions, which may mislead a Match Official.
- Show due respect towards Match Officials.



### **Respect towards Team Officials**

- Abide by the instructions of their Coach and Team Officials.
- Show due respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition.

### **Obligations towards the Supporters**

- Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

### **Payment of Fines**

It is the responsibility of all players to reimburse the Club, in full, for any fines incurred during games, i.e. as a result of receiving a yellow or red card.

### **Code of Conduct for Managers and Team Officials**

This Code applies to all Abbeymead Rovers Football Club' team and club officials;

#### **Obligations towards the Game**

- Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- Promote and develop his own team having regard to the interest of the Players, Supporters and reputation of the national game.
- Share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interest of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests.
- Show due respect to Match Officials and others involved in the game.
- Always have regard for the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- Not use of tolerate inappropriate language.

#### **Obligations towards the Team**

- Make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the club/team, and to obtain the best results for the team, using all permitted means.
- Give priority to the interests of the team over individual interests.
- Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques
- Promote ethical principles.
- Show due respect for the interests of the players, coaches and officials, their own club/team and others.

#### **Obligations towards the Supporters**

- Show due respect for the interests of supporters.

#### **Respect towards the Match Officials**

- Accept the decisions of the Match Official without protest.
- Avoid words or actions, which may mislead a Match Official.
- Show due respect towards Match Officials.

### **Code of Conduct for Parents / Spectators**

Parents and Spectators have a great influence on a child's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they first and foremost love the game – it's fun. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within our club, you as parents and spectators have a very important role to play and that your positive encouragement will contribute to:

- Children enjoying football.
- A sense of personal achievement.
- Self-esteem.
- Improving the child's skills and techniques.

Parent's and spectator's expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards:

- Other players.
- Officials.
- Managers.

- Spectators.

Abbeymead Rovers Football Club expect that parents / spectators within our club are always positive, giving encouragement towards ALL of the children, not just their own.

We encourage parents / spectators to:

- Applaud the opposition as well as your own team.
- Avoid coaching the child during the game.
- Not to shout and scream.
- Respect the referee's decision
- Give attention to each of the children involved in football not just the most talented
- Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football.

Abbeymead Rovers Football Club expect ALL parents and spectators to acknowledge and adhere to this 'Code of Conduct' and our 'Child Protection Policy'.

### **Policy on Cyberbullying**

Abbeymead Rovers Football Club will not tolerate 'Direct' or 'Proxy' Cyberbullying in any form. We expect ALL Club members to respect others and to take a stand against all forms of bullying.

Definitions:

Cyberbullying - when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, social networking sites, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

Direct Cyberbullying - when a message is sent to children directly.

Proxy Cyberbullying - when the instigator uses others to help cyberbully the victim, either with or without the accomplice's knowledge.

If a registered player or Club member is found to be Cyberbullying another Football Club, player or Club member then full disciplinary procedures will be invoked which may result in that person being expelled from the Club.

These same disciplinary procedures apply equally to safeguard all adult Club members, managers, coaches, parents or guardians from any Club member who engages in, or condones bullying of any kind.