

**YEOVIL & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
**Code of Conduct and Respect Guide for Clubs**

The League has signed up to the Football Association's Respect Programme to improve standards of behaviour on and off the field. This programme is a continuous one and not a one-off initiative. All participants in our League have a responsibility to make this Programme a success and they can help by becoming fully aware of the following Code of Conduct. I understand that if I do not follow this code, action may be taken.

1. For Young Players: As a player you have a big part to play. That is why The FA is asking every player to follow the Respect Code of Conduct and when playing football will:
  - Always do your best, even if we are losing or the other team is stronger.
  - Play fairly - I will not 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 am unhappy about anything at my club.
  
2. For Adult Players: We all have responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game and as a player can play my part on and off the field by:
  - Adhering 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.
  
3. Spectators and Parents/Carers. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times by:
  - Remaining outside the field of play and behind the Designated Spectators' 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.
  - 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.
  - The consumption of alcohol is not permitted pitch side during the match or immediately afterwards.
  
4. Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct always by:
  - Showing 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
  - 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.
5. Referees. Be honest and completely impartial always, irrespective of the teams, players, or team and club officials involved in the match:
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently.
  - Manage the game in a positive, calm, and confident manner.
  - Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play, and other misconduct.
  - Not tolerate offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials.
  - Always support my match official colleagues.
  - Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game.
  - Communicate with the players and encourage fair play.
  - Respond in a clear, calm, and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captain.
  - Prepare physically and mentally for every match.
  - Complete and submit accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

**Lose Respect  
Lose the game**