



ARTHUR GRIFFITH PARK FOOTBALL CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT

For Players, Coaches, Club Officials, Parents/Guardians and Supporters

Our standard: A safe, inclusive and respectful football environment in which player welfare, development, enjoyment, fair play and community spirit come first.

Arthur Griffith Park FC | Founded 2010

1. Purpose

Arthur Griffith Park Football Club (AGP FC) is a community-oriented football club committed to providing a safe, inclusive, positive and respectful environment for all members.

This Code of Conduct supports the club's Terms and Conditions of Membership and sets out the standards of behaviour expected from players, coaches, club officials, parents/guardians and supporters.

2. Scope

This Code applies to all individuals representing, participating in or supporting AGP FC at club-related activities and in communications connected with the club.

- Matches, both home and away.
- Training sessions, trials and development activities.
- Club events, meetings and activities.
- League, cup and competition fixtures.
- Travel connected with club activities.
- Online platforms, social media, email, text messages, WhatsApp and other electronic communications.

3. General Standards of Behaviour

Everyone associated with AGP FC is expected to:

- Act with respect, integrity, fairness and consideration at all times.
- Place the safety and welfare of children and young people first.
- Uphold sportsmanship, inclusion, equality and community spirit.
- Comply with club rules and applicable league, competition and governing-body regulations.
- Refrain from abusive, discriminatory, threatening, violent, intimidating or bullying behaviour.
- Avoid conduct that could reasonably bring AGP FC or the game into disrepute.
- Accept responsibility for their own conduct and communications.

4. Player Code of Conduct

All registered players are expected to:

- Play fairly and within the Laws of the Game.
- Respect teammates, coaches, opponents, match officials and supporters.
- Accept match-official decisions without abuse or inappropriate dissent.
- Attend training and matches punctually, prepared and appropriately equipped.
- Notify the team manager where attendance is not possible whenever reasonably practicable.
- Understand that registration or payment of membership fees does not guarantee selection, a particular position or a particular amount of game time.
- Accept team and squad-selection decisions made by the appointed coaching staff.
- Take responsibility for disciplinary sanctions or fines where applicable.
- Represent AGP FC positively within the club and wider community.

For players under 18, parents or legal guardians are responsible for supporting compliance with this Code and for any responsibilities assigned to them under the club's Terms and Conditions.

5. Coach and Club Official Code of Conduct

Coaches and club officials are expected to:

- Act as positive role models.
- Prioritise player welfare, safety, development and enjoyment.
- Treat players fairly, respectfully and without discrimination.
- Respect match officials, opposition teams, league representatives and other volunteers.
- Communicate clearly and respectfully with players and parents/guardians.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- Provide a safe and inclusive training and match environment.
- Make football decisions in the interests of the team, player development and the club.
- Follow club safeguarding procedures and report welfare concerns through the appropriate channels.
- Accept responsibility for disciplinary sanctions or fines issued by governing bodies where applicable.

6. Parents, Guardians and Supporters Code of Conduct

Parents, guardians and supporters play an important role in creating a positive environment and are expected to:

- Encourage players positively and respectfully.
- Respect players, coaches, club officials, match officials, opposition teams and opposition supporters.
- Refrain from shouting tactical instructions, criticism, abuse or inappropriate comments from the sideline.
- Accept that team selection, squad selection, playing positions, substitutions and playing time are coaching decisions.
- Understand that registration and payment of fees do not guarantee selection for a particular team, position or amount of playing time.
- Refrain from attempting to pressure or repeatedly influence coaches regarding selection, positions or playing time.
- Raise legitimate concerns through the club's communication and complaints procedure.
- Not approach coaches or club officials to pursue disputes immediately before, during or immediately after matches or training.
- Promote fair play, good sportsmanship and the values of AGP FC.

7. Parent/Guardian Communication & Complaints Procedure

AGP FC recognises that parents and guardians may occasionally have questions or concerns regarding their child's participation. The club welcomes reasonable, respectful communication and will endeavour to address legitimate concerns fairly.

7.1 Routine and Initial Communication

Routine matters such as availability, training times and fixtures may be raised with the team manager through the team's normal communication channel. A significant complaint or dispute concerning a coach, team selection, playing time, player welfare or another club matter should be raised through the appropriate club channel. Where a complaint concerns the team manager or coach, it should be referred to the Club Secretary or Chairman rather than pursued repeatedly with that coach. Safeguarding or child-welfare concerns should be referred immediately to the club's appropriate safeguarding officer/Designated Liaison Person in accordance with club safeguarding procedures.

7.2 Training and Match Days

The primary responsibility of coaches on training and match days is the safety, supervision and development of players. Parents/guardians must not use training sessions, matches, or the periods immediately before or after them to confront coaches or pursue disputes concerning team selection, playing time, positions, disciplinary decisions or ongoing complaints. A coach may decline such a discussion and direct the parent/guardian to the appropriate club official.

7.3 Respectful Communication

All face-to-face, telephone, email, text, WhatsApp, social-media and other communications with coaches, volunteers and club officials must remain respectful and reasonable. Abusive, threatening, intimidating, aggressive, discriminatory, defamatory or persistently confrontational communication is not acceptable.

7.4 Contacting Multiple Club Officials

Once a concern has been referred to the appropriate club official, the parent/guardian should allow reasonable time for it to be considered. Parents/guardians should not contact multiple coaches, managers, committee members or officials in an attempt to obtain a different decision or response. The club may nominate one official as the single point of contact for an ongoing matter. Once notified, communications concerning that matter must be directed through that person.

7.5 Repeated or Excessive Communication

AGP FC will make reasonable efforts to address legitimate concerns. Coaches and officials are predominantly volunteers and are entitled to reasonable boundaries regarding the frequency and timing of communications. Where a concern has been received, considered and answered, the club is not required to repeatedly answer the same question or continue an unproductive or repetitive exchange indefinitely.

7.6 Ending an Unproductive Discussion

Where a conversation becomes repetitive, confrontational, inappropriate or unproductive, a club official may advise that the discussion is being brought to an end and direct any further formal complaint through the appropriate procedure. Once such a reasonable communication boundary has been set, it must be respected. Continued excessive contact with the same or other club officials about the same matter may constitute a breach of this Code.

7.7 Coaching Decisions

Parents/guardians may ask reasonable questions about their child's development. Responsibility for team and squad selection, playing positions, substitutions, playing time and movement between teams or development groups rests with the appointed coaching staff. A disagreement with a coaching decision does not by itself establish grounds for a complaint, and parents/guardians must not attempt to dictate where a player plays or repeatedly seek a different decision from different coaches.

7.8 Formal Escalation

Where a parent/guardian remains dissatisfied after receiving a response, a formal complaint may be submitted in writing to the Club Secretary or Chairman. It should identify the issue, relevant dates or circumstances, persons involved and the resolution sought. The club may require further communication to be in writing while the matter is considered and may refer matters to the appropriate league, governing body or statutory authority where required.

7.9 Behaviour Towards Children

An adult disagreement with the club must never result in a child being confronted, questioned, criticised or drawn into the dispute. Concerns involving another player must be raised with the appropriate club official and not directly with the child.

7.10 24-Hour Rule

Except for safeguarding, safety, welfare or other urgent matters, parents/guardians are encouraged to wait until the day after a match before raising concerns about selection, playing position, substitutions or playing time. This allows football decisions to be discussed calmly and through the correct channel.

8. Social Media and Public Representation

- Online behaviour must reflect the club's values and reputation.
- No abusive, discriminatory, threatening, defamatory or offensive content relating to players, coaches, officials, opponents, leagues or the club may be posted.
- The club's name, crest, logo, photographs and imagery must be used respectfully and appropriately.
- Confidential club, disciplinary, safeguarding or personal information must not be published or circulated inappropriately.

9. Safeguarding and Player Welfare

The welfare of children and young people is paramount. Nothing in this Code prevents a parent, player, coach or other person from immediately raising a genuine safeguarding, safety or welfare concern through the appropriate safeguarding or statutory channel. Such concerns must be handled in accordance with the club's safeguarding policies and applicable governing-body requirements.

10. Disciplinary Action

A breach of this Code may result in disciplinary action by AGP FC. Any action should be proportionate to the circumstances and documented appropriately.

- Informal guidance or a verbal warning.
- A written warning.
- Nomination of a single club point of contact.
- A requirement that future communications be made in writing.
- Restrictions relating to attendance at specified club activities where appropriate and permitted.
- Suspension from club activities or membership.
- Recovery of applicable disciplinary fines where provided for under club rules.
- Termination of membership in accordance with club procedures.
- Referral to the relevant league, governing body or appropriate authority where necessary.

Communication boundaries: The club may nominate a single point of contact, require written correspondence, or bring an exchange to an end where a matter has been reasonably considered and responded to. Repeated attempts to reopen the same matter, contacting multiple officials to seek a different response, or failure to respect a reasonable communication boundary may constitute a further breach.

11. Governing-Body Decisions

AGP FC supports and will implement disciplinary decisions made by the leagues and governing bodies under whose jurisdiction the club participates. Failure to comply with a disciplinary outcome may lead to further club action.

12. Acceptance of the Code

By registering with Arthur Griffith Park FC, paying membership fees, participating in club activities, or attending club activities as a parent/guardian or supporter, individuals acknowledge the behavioural standards contained in this Code. For players under 18, the parent or legal guardian is expected to familiarise themselves with and support the player's compliance with the Code.

AGP FC may review and update this Code from time to time. The current version published or formally circulated by the club will apply.

Arthur Griffith Park Football Club

Respect • Development • Inclusion • Community