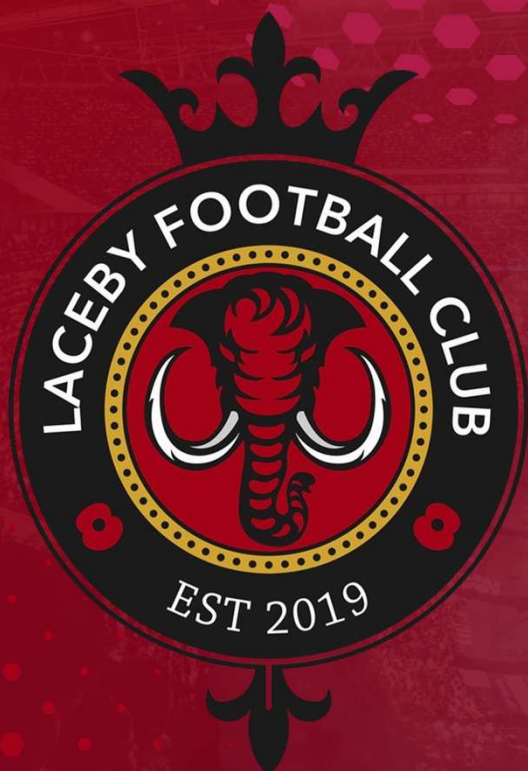




ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



Being Welfare Ready for the new season

2024-2025

Safeguarding Validation Visits (SVVs) 2024/25

The County FA - minimum of 18 unannounced SVVs a season.

They are one of the mandatory safeguarding standards all County FAs must meet as part of the National FA standards.



Safeguarding Validation Visits (SVVs) 2024/25

Training Visits

- Completed by County FA staff
- Desktop Review
- Coach compliance
- Engagement & Interaction
- Coach, Parent & Player Voice
- Feedback

Matchday Visits

- Completed by a group of 12 Matchday Assurance Officers
- Incognito visits to teams & clubs of concern (via discipline data)
- Officer reports back to DSO at County FA
- Feedback



Red	Amber	Green
High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Immediate Action Required	Action Required	Minimal to No Action Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One or more coaches are coaching and or supporting coaching without a valid FA DBS -One or more coaches are coaching and or supporting coaching without an in-date Safeguarding Children Course -One or more coaches display inappropriate conduct, which could include; poor language, overly aggressive manner, win at all costs mentality and/or inappropriate behaviour -The parents, carers or players mention any of the following; weak governance, adult misconduct and/or unsafe protocol around children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coaching displays some concern, which could include; coach active participation in training, weakly structured training and/or inappropriate adult to child ratios -Appropriate club information & policy is not shared regularly and not accessible to parent and other relevant members -Inconsistencies in parent knowledge of key Club Officials, particularly those involved in reporting concerns -Little to no online presence for club, combined with inconsistencies around accessibility to club policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coaching is of a good standard, is organised, well planned and all players are safe and enjoying participating -Parents & carers feel their child is safe, enjoys playing at the club and are aware of who the key Club Officials are -Parents & carers know and have an awareness of how to report concerns, and confidence in the club to address them -Club uses effective platforms to share appropriate documentation, and parents & carers know how to access these -Positive environment is evident
<p>Action Plan to be implemented</p> <p>Formal Action Plan on CRM</p> <p>Club has 28 days to complete</p> <p>*28 days start the day plan is entered onto CRM*</p>	<p>Club has actions to implement</p> <p>DSO to monitor actions</p> <p>Club has 56 days to complete</p> <p>*56 days start the day the club is notified*</p>	<p>Feedback provided to club</p> <p>DSO to communicate feedback</p> <p>Positives celebrated & shared</p>

Welfare Information & Policies

- Safeguarding Policy
- How to report a concern
- Code & Conduct & Complaints Procedure
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Participation or Equal Playing Time Policy
- Code of Conduct linked to Complaints Procedure





**Laceby
Football Club**



Laceby FC Code of Conduct

Parents, Carers, Guardians & Spectators

Why we have a Code of Conduct:

- To enforce the concept of enjoyment
- To support a warm & friendly environment at our football club
- To embrace a safe place for children to enjoy football

What I agree to do:

1. Applaud & celebrate good play from both teams
2. Always respect the match officials, and not use aggressive, intimidatory and/or abusive language towards them
3. Encourage players to respect the match official at all times
4. Spectate and remain behind the respect barrier at all times
5. When players make a mistake, encourage them to keep going positively
6. Not to use any form of swearing, offensive, insulting and/or discriminatory language at any point
7. Not to photo or video other children without prior consent of the relevant team officials
8. Allow the Team Manager and/or Coach to provide football related information during the game

I understand that if I do not follow this code:

I will be investigated under the club's complaints procedure

Under the club's complaints procedure I may be issued with; warnings about my conduct, suspensions and banning orders and removal from the club

Signed:

Date:

.....

.....



**Laceby
Football Club**



Laceby FC Code of Conduct

Young Players

When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability and for the benefit of my team
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, dive, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager.
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Be gracious in victory and defeat – I will shake hands with the other team and referee before or at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Understand that a coach has to do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club

In addition:

- My club may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club

I understand this code of conduct and will give 100% effort and positive attitude when I play and train for my Laceby team.

Signed:

Date:

.....



Laceby
Football Club



Laceby FC Code of Conduct

Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Use my position to set a positive example for the people I am responsible for
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Be aware of the potential impact of bad language on other participants, facility users or neighbours
- Be gracious in victory and defeat

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

In addition:

- My FA Coaching Licence may be withdrawn

Signed:

Date:



Participation policy

1. Maximises long-term player development
2. Development v Winning
3. Fun increases motivation. Can't have fun if not playing
4. Duty of care for players. Not playing can have a negative impact on their own self-worth and well-being
5. Embraces the concept of a 'team' – feeling important and part of the team



Participation policy

- 6. Players develop at different ages. Coaches will allow players to make mistakes and learn the game, without a dependence on the final score.
- 7. Strong relationships between coaches and parents
- 8. Minimise drop out – lack of game time in the top five of reasons



Positive Matchday Environments 2024

Standardised rules

- Respect Barriers
- Respect Marshalls
- No spectator zones
- Coaching staff size

Nuances (slight differences)

- Abandonments
- No spectator zones
- Respect Barrier distance





**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

LINCOLNSHIRE FA

MATCH DAY ENVIRONMENT

PITCH DIAGRAM



A RESPECT MARSHALL TO BE IDENTIFIED FOR EACH TEAM BY AN APPROPRIATE BIB

RESPECT BARRIER



3-5 METERS

3-5 METERS

NO SPECTATORS

NO SPECTATORS

MAXIMUM OF
3 COACHES



**TECHNICAL
AREA**

**TECHNICAL
AREA**

MAXIMUM OF
3 COACHES



Match day

1. The game belong to the kids. Let them play.



Match day

How to support your child in football

Our children are strongly influenced by our own attitudes and behaviour.

- Children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Focus on this, rather than exclusively on winning matches.
- **Don't take it too seriously.** Even if your child is talented, at this stage their enjoyment is still the main goal.
- Children need **positive feedback** to feel that they can improve their game. It doesn't help to tell them what they are doing wrong.
- Help them analyse their own game after the match is over. **Ask them how they felt about it, about other players, and ask them what went well to reinforce their strengths**
- Help children learn from their own mistakes by encouraging them to think about what they could have done instead. **Remind them of their strengths.**

Match day

- Help children to feel confident, enjoy themselves and feel like they 'belong' by supporting a positive atmosphere at a game.
- Football is a passionate game but don't let disappointment at a misplaced pass or a poor touch get in the way. Encourage players to 'move on'.
- Respect the officials – children copy their parents and other adults' behaviour!
- Encourage your club to adopt a 'Code of Conduct' for the types of behaviour you wish to see in football, with potential sanctions when codes are not adhered to. Talk to your child about these to confirm their understanding.



Match day

What experts say about children and competition

Experts in child development tell us that:

- Children should feel confident that they'll be supported, whether they win or lose.
- Too much pressure to win can have a negative effect and put children off the game altogether.
- Dreaming of success is fine, but make sure they're your child's dreams, not yours.
- It helps to manage your child's expectations, so they regard losing as learning, not as failure.
- Research has shown that children are more interested in playing the game than getting a result.
- Winning is great but at this stage it's not everything.
- If we see competition as a way to improve a team's game, losing can be as valuable as winning.

Match day

Get the most from
watching your child
play football

Be a good spectator

- Cheer good effort.
- Be positive and supportive of all the players.
- Allow the coach to do their job without interference.
- Respect the referee's decisions, even if you disagree.
- Don't criticise or dwell on mistakes or weaknesses – this undermines confidence.
- Appreciate the opposing team's efforts too.
- Take an FA coaching or referee course – improve your own understanding of the game and provide practical assistance to the club.



Match day

Healthy habits at home

Playing football requires lots of energy.

- Encourage your child to eat regularly.
- Help them eat a balanced diet - including calcium for strong bones, protein for growth and **carbohydrates for energy**.
- Use football role models to promote healthy eating to your child. Point out that, for example, John Terry or Faye White would eat a proper breakfast before a game.
- A **healthy diet** allows our bodies to recover more easily from stress and injury. Essential for players keen to get back on the pitch.
- Keep kids **hydrated with water** - football is hot work!
- Provide children with healthy snacks and a still (not fizzy) drink when they're training.
- Make sure they get **enough sleep, especially before a match**.
- Encourage your children to practise and try out new skills outside of playing matches and training.

Respect Officer

- An Adult who preferably is someone that is **calm** but **confident** in dealing with others within their own Club.
- Try to keep **the same person every week** or a small group of people to carry out the role on a rotational basis.
- Make sure they are known to supporters of your Team
- **A lack of challenge can, and often does, lead to abuse!**



Respect Officer

Prior to the game each Respect Officer) should introduce themselves to the Referee and make them feel welcome.



Respect Officer – Responsibilities

1. Ensuring that their **own spectators** comply with Respect designated spectator area.
2. **Remind** own supporters of responsibilities in relation to Respect.
3. **Support the Referee** when dealing with any spectator related issue within your own team.
4. Always use common sense and be a **visual point of contact** for any concerns from the opposition (RO).
5. The FA Respect Programme must be always considered by the (RS).



Play Safe Weekend

Weekend of Saturday 28th September & Sunday 29th September

1. The weekend is designed to raise awareness around safeguarding & welfare, ensuring positive environments for young people in the game.
2. The Lincolnshire initiative 'Safe Shake'.
3. We would love to see videos of parents lining up as players would do pre-kick-off and shaking hands as they pass each other. Please send the videos into us via social media at the Lincs FA and we will re-post on the day.
4. We will have teams of staff coming out to clubs to promote the weekend. If you would like us to visit your club on that day, please let me know

