



## Smethwick Athletic - Code of Conduct

(This document is based on the FA Code of Conduct. It is reviewed/amended periodically to ensure that it accurately reflects the values of Smethwick Athletic.)

### 1. Our players

WHEN TRAINING AND PLAYING IN MATCHES I WILL:

- Show and encourage high standards of behaviour
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Never use offensive or bullying language or behaviour – I won't swear
- Understand that a coach has to do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- 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
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee – I won't question the referee's decision
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee and my coach/manager
- Be gracious in victory and defeat – I will shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- 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, coaches 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, County FA or The FA 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.

## **2. Our parents/carers/spectators**

I WILL:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Support positively and offer players encouragement not criticism
- Understand that a coach has to do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour – I won't swear
- Respect the referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Bring players to training/matches on time - safe transport of players to training/matches is wholly the responsibility of parents/carers, not the club's
- Bring players to training/matches in appropriate clothing/equipment (i.e. wearing shin pads, suitable footwear, and weather-appropriate kit)
- Pay all fees when they are due (or - in case of financial difficulties - as soon as possible after that time)
- Talk to the player's coach and/or club committee members at the earliest opportunity if I wish to raise any concerns.

**I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken:**

**I MAY BE:**

- **Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official**
- **Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer**
- **Required to meet with the club committee**
- **Obligated to undertake an FA education course**
- **Obligated to leave the match venue by the club**
- **Requested by the club not to attend future games**
- **Suspended or have my club membership removed**
- **Required to leave the club along with any dependents.**

IN ADDITION:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club.

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 Code of Conduct for spectators at all times.

## **3. Our 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 Code of Conduct at all times.

**ON AND OFF THE FIELD, I WILL:**

- Use my position to set a positive example for the young people I am responsible for
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials, parents/carers and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Never field an ineligible player
- Respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate any form of offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour – I won't swear
- 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
- Always be respectful during interactions with players and parents/carers
- Never discuss late payment of fees with (or around) the player – only privately with their parent/carer
- Always allow a child who arrives late to participate in training – I will only raise concerns about punctuality privately with their parent/carer
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Ensure that all young players are safely in the care of their parent(s)/carer(s) before leaving the training/match venue
- Cooperate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

**WHEN WORKING WITH OUR OWN COACHES, OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS, I WILL:**

- Always remember that we are all volunteers giving our time freely to help provide children the opportunity to play football
- Always be respectful during all interactions - including on social media (such as WhatsApp)
- Always remember that we are part of the same team
- Always be open to the possibility of personal development in the pursuit of achieving improved outcomes for our players

**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.