



Mandatory Credentials: All coaches/helpers MUST hold a valid **Full FA DBS**, **FA Safeguarding for Children**, and **FA First Aid** before working with players under 18. Coaches must be registered on the Club system and allocated to their team *before* coaching. Head Coaches must pass the **FA Introduction to Coaching**.

FA Playing Time Guidelines: • **U7–U11:** Equal playing time during the foundation phase. • **U12–U18:** Fair playing time during the competitive phase (5–10 mins per game throughout the season is not fair game time). Seek guidance from the Football Development Officer if needed.

Coaches are key to the ethics of football; their attitude directly affects player behavior. Coaches must disassociate from a "win-at-all-costs" mentality. The health, safety, welfare, and moral education of young people are the absolute first priority, ahead of the achievement or reputation of the club, coach, or parent.

BENCHMARK STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of the sport.
- Place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including performance development.
- Adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies and develop relationships based on mutual trust and respect.
- Encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance.
- Ensure directed activities are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of the players.
- Clarify at the outset with players and parents exactly what is expected of them and what they can expect from you.
- Cooperate fully with other club members (coaches, officials, committee members) in the best interests of the player.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game.
- Consistently display high standards of behavior to set an example both on and off the pitch.
- Do not use or tolerate inappropriate language, or engage in/allow any type of bullying towards a player or guardian.
- **Follow all FA Safeguarding Guidelines at all times, including:**
 - Only communicate to children through their guardian/parent (or an approved group chat containing the guardian/parent).
 - Never transport a child alone. Written parental authorization and notification to the Club CWO are mandatory beforehand.
 - Do not publish team pictures on social media without prior written permission from parents/guardians.
- Always engage with guardians/parents and keep them informed of any issues involving their child.
- Act as the first point of call for issues raised by parents, dealing with them in a timely manner (seeking committee advice if required).
- Notify the club of any yellow/red cards at ANY game and personally pay any fines relating to cautions received.
- Ensure all administrative and league tasks are completed on time and personally pay any fines relating to late submissions.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & OUTCOMES

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct leaves coaches open to formal disciplinary action from the club, league, or the FA, resulting in the following potential outcomes:

- Suspension from attending matches.
- Suspension from ALL football-related activities associated with the club.
- Suspension or fines imposed by the affiliated league the team plays in.
- Suspension or fines imposed by the County FA.
- Requirement to leave the coaching role.

For Serious Breaches:

- Withdrawal of FA Coaching Accreditation.