



Terms of Reference for Youth Football Coaches

1. Purpose

This document outlines the roles, responsibilities, expectations, and standards of conduct for coaches working with children and young people within the Club. The purpose is to ensure that coaching activities are delivered in a safe, positive, inclusive, and developmental environment that prioritises the welfare of children and young people.

2. Scope

These Terms of Reference apply to all paid and voluntary coaches involved in the delivery of football activities for players under the age of 18, including training sessions, matches, tournaments, football camps, and club events.

3 Objectives

Coaches are expected to:

- Promote the enjoyment and development of football for all players.
- Provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.
- Develop players' technical, tactical, physical, social, and emotional skills.
- Foster positive attitudes, teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship.
- Act as positive role models at all times.

4. Role and Responsibilities

Coaching and Player Development

Coaches shall:

- Plan and deliver age-appropriate training sessions.
- Encourage participation, learning, and personal development.
- Provide constructive feedback and support.



- Promote equal opportunities for all players.
- Focus on player development rather than solely on winning.

5. Safeguarding and Welfare

Coaches shall:

- Place the welfare of children above all other considerations.
- Comply with all safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with players.
- Report safeguarding concerns immediately to the Club Welfare Officer.
- Create an environment free from bullying, abuse, discrimination, and harassment.
- Ensure players are supervised appropriately during club activities.

6. Health and Safety

Coaches shall:

- Conduct activities in a safe manner.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are suitable and safe for use.
- Maintain awareness of players' medical conditions, injuries, and emergency contact information.
- Follow emergency procedures where required.
- Promote safe participation and injury prevention.

7. Behaviour and Professional Conduct

Coaches shall:

- Treat all players, parents, officials, volunteers, and colleagues with dignity and respect.
- Demonstrate fairness, honesty, and integrity.



- Never use abusive, discriminatory, or inappropriate language.
- Refrain from any behaviour that could bring the Club into disrepute.
- Maintain professional standards both in person and online.

8. Qualifications and Compliance

Coaches must:

- Hold appropriate coaching qualifications relevant to their role.
- Maintain a valid enhanced DBS check where required.
- Complete safeguarding and first aid training as required by the Club and governing body.
- Participate in continuing professional development opportunities.
- Comply with all Club policies and relevant football regulations.

9. Communication

Coaches shall:

- Communicate clearly and professionally with players and parents.
- Provide timely information regarding training, matches, and events.
- Address concerns respectfully and constructively.
- Use approved communication channels in accordance with safeguarding guidance.

10. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Coaches must:

- Promote equality and inclusion in all football activities.
- Ensure fair treatment of all participants.
- Challenge discriminatory behaviour when observed.



- Create opportunities for all children to participate and develop regardless of ability, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, or background.

11. Rights of Coaches

Coaches have the right to:

- Be treated with respect by players, parents, officials, and club members.
- Receive appropriate support, guidance, and training.
- Work in a safe environment.
- Raise concerns regarding player welfare, safety, or club operations.
- Participate in professional development opportunities.

12. Performance and Accountability

Coaches are accountable to the Club Committee and/or Football Development Lead and shall:

- Adhere to club policies and procedures.
- Support club values and objectives.
- Attend meetings and training as required.
- Cooperate with safeguarding, disciplinary, and performance review processes.

13. Discipline and Breaches

Failure to comply with these Terms of Reference may result in:

- Informal guidance or support.
- Formal warning.
- Suspension from coaching duties.
- Referral to relevant football authorities where appropriate.
- Termination of coaching responsibilities.

Any action taken will be proportionate, fair, and in accordance with Club disciplinary procedures.



14. Review

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with safeguarding legislation, football regulations, and recognised best practice.

15. Key Coach Commitments

By signing this agreement, coaches commit to:

- Prioritising the welfare of every child.
- Acting as a positive role model.
- Promoting respect, inclusion, and fair play.
- Maintaining professional standards at all times.
- Supporting the Club's safeguarding and development objectives.

Coach Agreement

I have read and understood these Terms of Reference and agree to carry out my coaching duties in accordance with the standards, responsibilities, and expectations outlined in this document.

Coach Name: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Position/Team: _____

Date: _____