

ECB Guidelines for a Code of Conduct for Children

The ECB encourages clubs to use the Code of Conduct for Members and Guests as a starting point for producing an additional Children's Code of Conduct.

The Government Guidance 'Working Together to safeguard Children 2018' tells organisations to listen to children and to involve them in decisions that affect them.

NSPCC research shows when children are empowered to create rules for themselves these rules are usually far more greatly respected, (and often stricter!) than those that adults might make.

Children can feel empowered by the ability to voice their own opinion about what they feel is acceptable behaviour. Coaches and the Club Welfare Officer should be the facilitators for this additional code of conduct.

Possible topics to discuss with children are:

- Why do they come to the club and what do they want to get from it – for example, to have fun, to learn how to play, to take part in matches, to be with their friends, to keep fit
- How do they want to treat, and be treated, by adults – officials, adult members of the club and spectators
- How do they want to treat, and be treated, by other children at the club
- How do they want to be able to raise any concerns they have
- What rules, or limits, do they think there should be
- How do they think any breaches of the code of conduct should be dealt with

It is important clubs draw attention to their codes of conduct, share these with children and parents, put them online and place them on all relevant notice boards in dressing rooms and club areas.



