



Hares Youth F.C. – Parents & Carers Code of Conduct

Applies to: All parents, carers and family members supporting players across Hares Youth F.C.

Effective from: February 2026

Club Welfare Contact: Chris Adams – welfare@haresyouth.com – 07753 301299

1. Our Commitment

At **Hares Youth F.C.**, we focus on providing a **safe, nurturing, and enjoyable environment** where children can develop their football skills, confidence, and love for the game.

Parents and carers play a vital role in shaping this experience, and this Code explains the standards expected from everyone supporting the club.

2. What Hares Youth Stands For

- **Fun first.** Winning is great, but enjoyment, learning, and teamwork come first.
- **Respect always.** Officials, coaches, players (both ours and opponents), and fellow parents.
- **Positive football.** Encouragement over pressure, effort over results.
- **Safety and welfare.** Every child has the right to feel safe, supported, and included.

3. Matchday & Training Behaviour

As a parent/carer of a Hares Youth player, I will:

Support Positively

- Cheer for **all** players, not only my own child.
- Use **positive, encouraging language** only.
- Applaud good play from either team.

Respect the Coaching Team

- Allow coaches to coach — avoid shouting instructions from the sidelines.
- Trust the club's long-term development approach.

Behave with Respect

- Never shout at or challenge referees, officials, or opposition coaches.
- Never criticise or mock players (ours or opponents).
- Stay behind the respect barrier or within permitted spectator areas at all times.

I will **not**:

- Use foul, confrontational, or disrespectful language.
- Enter the pitch unless invited by a coach or official.
- Engage in arguments with other parents, coaches, or officials.

4. Respect for Officials & Opponents

Hares Youth F.C. supports the FA's Respect Campaign.

Parents must:

- Respect officials at all times — they are learning too. Some of these are children as well.
- Avoid approaching referees after the game.
- Encourage players to shake hands and uphold sportsmanship.

Any concerns go through the **Team Manager**, not directly to officials.

5. Communication with Coaches

- Use agreed communication channels: **[WhatsApp / Club App / Email]**.
- For concerns about playing time, positioning, or behaviour, request a **calm, private discussion**.
- Avoid in-moment disputes — a **24-hour cooling-off period** may apply for sensitive issues.
- Share relevant medical, SEN, or welfare information early.

6. Safeguarding & Welfare

I will:

- Ensure my child arrives with correct kit, water, and essential medication.
- Inform coaches of injuries or changes affecting participation.
- Support a pressure-free environment where mistakes are part of learning.
- Follow club rules on photography, consent, video recording, and social media.

Safeguarding concerns must be raised directly with the **Hares Youth F.C. Welfare Officer**.

7. Pick-Up, Drop-Off & Supervision

- Ensure punctual drop-off and collection.
- Notify the coach immediately if delayed.
- For younger age groups, remain on site or nominate a responsible adult.

8. Social Media & Messaging

Parents must:

- Use social media responsibly and avoid criticising players, coaches, referees, or other clubs.
- Not post images of children without confirmed consent.
- Never post details or results of games unless they are playing in published leagues (U12 and above)

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Hares Youth F.C. is a welcoming club for all children.

Parents agree to:

- Reject and challenge any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.
- Model inclusive and respectful behaviour at all times.

10. Club Duties & Matchday Help

To help the club run smoothly, parents may be asked to assist with:

- Pitch set-up or pack-down.
- Running respect barriers.
- Supporting fundraising or club events.
- Ensuring subs/fees are paid on time (confidential support available where needed).

11. Playing Time Approach

Hares Youth F.C. aims for **fair and balanced playing time** over the season, considering:

- Attendance
- Effort and attitude
- Commitment to training
- League rules and safeguarding needs

Development, not results, guides decisions.

12. Concerns & Complaints

If I have a concern, I will:

1. Speak calmly to the **Team Coach or Manager** (away from matchday intensity), or
2. Contact the **Club Welfare Officer** for safeguarding issues, or
3. Raise matters with the **Club Committee** if unresolved.

All matters will be handled respectfully and confidentially.

13. Breaches & Sanctions

If this Code is breached, the club may apply:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Requests to step away from matches
- Suspension from fixtures
- Removal of membership in serious or repeated cases
- Reporting to the appropriate league or County FA

Hares Youth F.C. will always act fairly and in the best interests of the children.

14. Acknowledgement

I agree to follow this Code of Conduct and understand that my behaviour directly impacts the experience and safety of every child at **Hares Youth F.C.**

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Player Name & Team: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____