



Hares Youth F.C. – Coaches, Managers & Club Officials Code of Conduct

Applies to: All coaches, team managers, assistants, volunteers, committee members and matchday officials representing **Hares Youth F.C.**

Effective from: February 2026

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

1. Purpose

Hares Youth F.C. is committed to providing high-quality, child-centred grassroots football in a safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment. This Code sets out the professional standards and behaviours expected of all coaches and club officials when representing the club.

2. Our Core Principles

All Hares Youth F.C. staff and volunteers agree to:

- Put **children's welfare first** — ahead of results, league position, or personal ambitions.
- Create a **safe, positive and inclusive space** for every player.
- Demonstrate **Respect** at all times — in line with FA guidelines.
- Be strong **role models** for players, parents, and the wider community.
- Act with **integrity, fairness, and professionalism** in all club activities.

3. Safeguarding & Player Welfare

I will:

- Always **prioritise child safety** and follow FA safeguarding policies.
- Complete required qualifications:
 - FA Introduction to Coaching Football
 - FA Safeguarding Children
 - FA First Aid (I2CF First Aid Module)
- Report any safeguarding concern **immediately** to the Club Welfare Officer.
- Never engage in conduct (verbal, physical, or online) that could be harmful, abusive, or inappropriate.
- Ensure **two-adult rule** is observed where required (communications, transport, supervision).
- Maintain proper boundaries — **I am a coach, not a friend.**

4. Coaching Standards & Matchday Behaviour

I will:

- Deliver sessions that are **fun, challenging, safe, and development-focused.**
- Plan training with age-appropriate practices that follow FA Foundation or Youth Development principles.
- Create equal opportunities for all players to participate, learn, and grow.
- Avoid over-playing, over-training, or placing unnecessary pressure on children.
- Encourage good sportsmanship: teamwork, respect, resilience, humility.
- Treat match officials with **complete respect**, even when decisions feel incorrect.
- Challenge poor behaviour firmly but appropriately.

I will **never**:

- Shout aggressively at children, referees, parents, or opponents.
- Prioritise winning over player wellbeing and development.

- Use punishment-based coaching (e.g. laps, press-ups, humiliation).
 - Discriminate against any player or individual.
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5. Communication & Conduct with Parents

I will:

- Communicate clearly about training, matches, expectations, and player development.
 - Address issues **calmly and privately**, never through confrontation on the touchline.
 - Maintain professionalism in all WhatsApp/chat groups and messages.
 - Respect parental input while making final decisions in the best interests of the team.
 - Operate a **24-hour cooling-off rule** for sensitive or emotional discussions.
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6. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Hares Youth F.C. is committed to fairness and equal access.

As a coach or official, I will:

- Treat every player and family with **respect and dignity**, regardless of race, ability, gender, religion, or background.
 - Actively challenge discriminatory behaviour or language.
 - Foster an environment where all players feel valued and included.
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7. Social Media & Digital Conduct

I will:

- Use social media **responsibly and professionally**.
 - Never post negative content about players, parents, referees, or other clubs.
 - Never message a child directly — communications must include parents/guardians or follow club-approved systems.
 - Comply with image consent rules before posting photos or videos.
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8. Team Selection & Playing Time

At Hares Youth F.C., playing time is based on **development, effort, and fairness across the season**, considering:

- Attendance and attitude
- Respect for teammates and coaches
- Safety and wellbeing
- League regulations

I will ensure:

- Every player receives meaningful playing time throughout the season.
 - Rotation is applied fairly, age-appropriately, and transparently.
 - Selection decisions are explained respectfully when asked.
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9. Health, Safety & Matchday Duty of Care

I will:

- Ensure facilities, equipment, and pitches are safe before use.
 - Always carry a stocked first aid kit and be trained to use it.
 - Keep clear player medical information (e.g. asthma, allergies).
 - Cancel or modify sessions if conditions (heat, cold, storms, pitch) are unsafe.
 - Follow concussion guidelines — **“If in doubt, sit them out.”**
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10. Club Representation & Professionalism

As a representative of Hares Youth F.C., I will:

- Uphold the club’s values, reputation, and community standards.
 - Be punctual, organised, and prepared for all sessions and matches.
 - Dress in appropriate club clothing where possible.
 - Support club events and volunteer activities.
 - Work collaboratively with the committee, welfare team, and fellow coaches.
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11. Managing Issues & Escalation

I will:

- Handle disputes calmly and professionally.
 - Avoid confrontations with opposition teams or supporters.
 - Report incidents promptly to the Club Welfare Officer or Committee.
 - Support parents and players through concerns constructively and transparently.
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12. Breaches & Sanctions

Failure to follow this Code may result in:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Removal from matchday coaching duties
- Suspension from training or club activities
- Removal of coaching position
- Referral to the league or County FA (where required)

Hares Youth F.C. will apply sanctions fairly, proportionately, and always with child welfare as the priority.

13. Agreement

I understand that I am a role model and representative of **Hares Youth F.C.**.

I agree to uphold this Code of Conduct and the values of the club at all times.

Name: _____

Role (Coach/Manager/Official): _____

Team/Age Group: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____