



Hares Youth F.C. – Players Code of Conduct (Youth & Adult)

Applies to: All registered players at Hares Youth F.C. (Youth U7–U18 and Adult)

Effective from: February 2026

Club Values: Respect • Teamwork • Enjoyment • Effort • Inclusion

1) What We Stand For

At **Hares Youth F.C.**, we want every player to **enjoy football, develop positively, and feel safe and included**.

By playing for Hares Youth, you agree to **represent the club with pride**, on and off the pitch.

2) Core Standards (All Players)

I will:

- **Respect everyone** — teammates, coaches, referees, opponents, volunteers, and supporters.
- **Try my best** — in training and matches; be on time, listen, learn, and work hard.
- **Play fair** — no diving, time-wasting, dissent, or gamesmanship.
- **Use positive language** — no swearing, insults, or discriminatory remarks.
- **Be a good teammate** — support others, celebrate together, accept rotation and roles.

- **Look after myself** — bring correct kit, shin pads, water; tell the coach about injuries or illness.
- **Care for the environment** — help with equipment, respect facilities, and leave no litter.
- **Represent the badge** — on the pitch, on social media, and in the community.

I will **not**:

- Argue with referees or officials (captain/coach handles queries).
- Bully, isolate, or mock anyone (including online).
- Use alcohol, drugs, or vaping in or around youth football settings.
- Damage property or behave in ways that bring the club into disrepute.

3) Youth Players (U7–U18)

I will:

- **Enjoy the game** and focus on learning and effort, not just results.
- **Listen to my coaches** and try the things we practise, even when they are hard.
- **Be brave and respectful** — accept decisions, learn from mistakes, and keep going.
- **Include everyone** — be kind to new players; support teammates of all abilities.
- **Use devices responsibly** — no inappropriate posts or messages in team chats.

Matchday & Training:

- Arrive on time and with the right kit.
- Tell the coach if I'm hurt, upset, or worried.
- Shake hands with opponents and thank the referee after games.

Online Behaviour:

- Keep chats supportive and appropriate; no sharing personal details, images, or locations without permission.
- Report any worries or bullying to a trusted adult or the **Club Welfare Officer**.

4) Adult Players (Open Age)

I will:

- **Lead by example** for youth and the wider club — calm, respectful, organised.
- **Respect officials** and avoid dissent or confrontations (use the captain to communicate).
- **Play safely** — manage fitness, injuries, and recovery; follow concussion guidance.
- **Support a positive culture** — cut out discriminatory or abusive language in the squad and online.
- **Be responsible** around alcohol and behaviour at club venues and events.

If I mentor or assist with youth sessions:

- Follow **club safeguarding rules** (two-adult rule, boundaries, language, no direct messaging with children).

5) Social Media & Messaging (All Players)

I will:

- Post responsibly: **no criticism** of teammates, coaches, referees, or other clubs.
- **Protect privacy** — no sharing of personal data, medical details, or real-time locations.
- Use club channels appropriately; **youth players do not DM coaches 1:1** (parents/carers included in communications).

6) Inclusion, Anti-Bullying & Equality

- Hares Youth F.C. is for **everyone**.
- I will **challenge and report** bullying, discrimination, or harassment (race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other basis).
- I will support teammates with **different needs** and help create a **welcoming environment**.

7) Health, Safety & Welfare

- **Tell the coach** about injuries, illness, or worries that affect me.

- **Concussion:** If in doubt, **sit it out** — I will not return the same day and will follow return-to-play advice.
- Bring required medication (e.g., inhalers) and use it as prescribed.
- Follow heat/cold guidance and venue rules.

8) Kit, Facilities & Club Property

- Wear suitable kit and **shin pads**; remove jewellery; tie long hair if needed for safety.
- Treat pitches, changing rooms, and equipment with **care and respect**.
- Help with **set-up and pack-down** when asked.

9) If Something Goes Wrong

- Stay calm, **walk away from conflict**, and let the captain/coach handle it.
- Report issues (bullying, discrimination, welfare concerns, unsafe behaviour) to:
 - **Team Coach/Manager**
 - **Club Welfare Officer**
 - A trusted adult (for youth players)
- In immediate danger, call **999**.

Whistleblowing: You are protected if you raise concerns in good faith.

10) Breaches & Sanctions

If I do not follow this Code, the club may apply:

- **Education/support** and a verbal/written warning
- **Match suspension** or removal from selection
- **Club suspension** or termination of registration (serious/repeated cases)
- **Reporting** to league/County FA or relevant authorities where required

Sanctions are **fair, proportionate, and focused on learning and safety**.

11) Acknowledgement

By playing for **Hares Youth F.C.**, I understand and agree to this Players Code of Conduct and the standards it sets for behaviour, respect, and safety.

Player Name: _____

Team/Age Group: _____

Signature (Player): _____

Date: _____

Parent/Carer Signature (Youth): _____ (for U18s)