ALVECHURCH FC
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CIO

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

SEASON 2026/27

THE HAYES SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

V1.0 April 26

INTRODUCTION

Players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects professionalism, respect, and the values of the Club at all times. The Club is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and positive environment where all players can enjoy football, develop their skills, and represent Alvechurch Foundation with pride.

All Codes of Conduct (players, coaches, spectators) are published on Team Fee Pay (TFP) and accessible to all associated with Alvechurch Foundation.

Staff members are available to support you—please seek assistance whenever needed.

1. CLUB RULES

Amendments to Club rules, codes of conduct, and special instructions may be issued throughout the season. Notifications will be made by the Head of Youth and updated on TFP. Players must ensure they remain fully conversant with them.

Players must follow the rules and regulations of:

- The Football Association
- The Local County FAs
- The Midland Junior Premier League
- The Junior Premier League
- The Central Warwickshire Youth Football League
- The Central Warwickshire Girls Football League
- The Mercian League
- Any other league or competition in which their team participates

The Club adopts The FA / England Football Grassroots Code (Respect the Standard) and expects every player to model and actively promote the five Standards of Behaviour:

Enjoy the Game, Give Respect, Be Inclusive, Work Together, Play Safe.

Players must challenge unacceptable behaviour, including discrimination, aggressive conduct, and abuse of match officials, and must follow these standards at training and on match days.

Players must also comply with The FA Respect Programme and the relevant Respect Code of Conduct for Players.

Players must behave in a manner that maintains the good reputation of the Club at all times.

The Club operates an equal opportunities policy.

All players are accountable to their Head Coach and ultimately the Head of Youth.

Players must behave responsibly on and off the pitch, including when not selected for a match. No alcohol is to be consumed within 48 hours of a match. Players must not smoke, vape, or engage in any behaviour that would be considered inappropriate while representing the Club.

Players must report to the designated time and place for each match. Failure to do so without valid reason and without notifying the Head Coach may result in disciplinary action.

Players must comply with all FA and league regulations, including Anti-Doping, Betting Integrity, Discrimination, and Social Media rules.

2. SAFEGUARDING & COMPLIANCE

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Players must:

- Treat all teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents with respect
- Report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the Club Welfare Officer
- Follow all instructions relating to safety, welfare, and conduct
- Never engage in bullying, harassment, discrimination, or abusive behaviour

All injuries must be reported immediately to the Head Coach, who will submit an injury report via TFP.

Players must follow FA concussion guidance. Any player suspected of concussion must be removed immediately and must not return to play that day. Parents/guardians will be informed, and the incident will be escalated to the Club Welfare Officer.

Return to play must follow an appropriate graduated process. Players must never hide symptoms or feel pressured to continue.

Players must follow FA/IFAB heading guidance. Deliberate heading is being phased out in U7–U11 matches. Heading in training must be age-appropriate and limited.

Failure to follow safeguarding instructions may result in disciplinary action.

3. HOME MATCHDAYS

Players must report to the ground at least 30 minutes before kick-off, or earlier if instructed.

Players must follow the Club's footwear policy. Incorrect footwear may result in being unable to participate.

Players must treat all facilities, equipment, and staff with respect.

Players must help ensure equipment is returned promptly after use.

4. AWAY MATCHDAYS

Players are responsible for arriving at the designated meeting point in good time for departure or arrival on site.

Players must behave respectfully at all away venues and follow all instructions from coaches and match officials.

5. TRAINING DAYS

Training times and venues will be designated by the Head of Youth.

Players must arrive on time, with correct kit and footwear.

Players must follow all safety instructions and behave responsibly.

Incorrect footwear will result in being unable to participate.

6. PRESS & PUBLIC MEDIA

Players must not:

- Criticise the Club, teammates, coaches, officials, or staff publicly
- Bring the game into disrepute

- Give interviews without approval from the Head of Media & Communications

Players must represent the Club positively at all times.

7. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This policy applies to all players and forms part of the Club's rules.

Players must not:

- Use offensive, abusive, discriminatory, or inappropriate language
- Make negative comments about teammates, coaches, officials, or other clubs
- Post images or videos of other players without consent
- Engage in arguments, threats, or abusive exchanges
- Share content that could embarrass the Club or individuals
- Repost or share content that breaches this policy

Breaches may result in disciplinary action, including potential gross misconduct.

Players must use common sense and think before posting.

8. KIT & EQUIPMENT

Players must wear the official Club kit for every training session, match, and Club activity. Only approved and sponsored Club kit is allowed. This helps us look professional, stay consistent as a team, and represent the Club properly.

Correct footwear must be worn on the 3G surface at all times. Only approved moulded boots or 3G-appropriate trainers are permitted.

Metal studs, blades, or unsafe footwear are strictly prohibited.

Any person not wearing appropriate footwear will be asked to leave the pitch until correct footwear is worn. Failure to comply may be treated as a disciplinary matter.

Lost or damaged kit must be reported. Replacement costs may apply.

9. EXPENSES

Players are not permitted to incur expenses on behalf of the Club without prior approval from the Head of Youth & Foundation.

10. INSURANCE & PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

The Club does not provide personal accident or possessions insurance beyond standard grassroots cover.

Players are responsible for safeguarding their own belongings, equipment, and vehicles.

The Club cannot accept liability for loss or damage to personal property, however caused.

11. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS - PLAYERS

The Club follows a three-stage disciplinary process, aligned with FA Respect and safeguarding expectations.

Serious Incidents / Gross Misconduct

Gross misconduct may result in immediate removal from the Club.

Stage 1 – Verbal Warning

A verbal warning may be issued by the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Head of Youth.

- Parent/guardian and player must be present
- The incident must be documented and reported to the Head of Youth

Stage 2 – Written Warning

Issued by the Head of Youth if behaviour does not improve or further incidents occur.

Stage 3 – Removal from the Club

A removal letter is issued by the Head of Youth and/or Sporting Director.

The right to appeal through Birmingham County FA applies.

Registration & Kit Return

The Club will retain the player's registration until all Club kit is returned. All outstanding fees/subscriptions/fines must be settled if a player leaves the club.

Communication Requirements

Disciplinary matters must not be communicated through social media or messaging apps. To ensure clarity and proper record-keeping, only verbal communication will be formally recognised and recorded by the Club.

12. SEASON LONG COMMITMENT

Players are expected to participate for the full duration of the season (August–May).

Players must maintain commitment to training, matches, and team expectations. All players are able to play and train across a 12 month period.

Any concerns affecting availability must be raised early with the Coach/Manger.

13 USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Name	Position	Tel	Email
Bryan Alcott	Chief Welfare Officer	07563 296914	Bryan@alvechurchFC.co.uk
Mark Fogarty	Sporting Director	07564 926231	Mark@AlvechurchFC.co.uk
Steve Clements	Head of Youth	07943 117741	Steve-alvechurchhoy@outlook.com
Ricardo Richards	Assistant Head of Youth (12-18)	07976 567703	havok_rr@hotmail.com
Dale Adams	Assistant Head of Youth (7-11)	07894 248085	dale.s.adams@googlemail.com
Rob White	Assistant Head of Youth (Girls)	07843 526327	robertwhite_777@hotmail.com

APPENDIX 1: FA BETTING RULES AS OF 1 AUGUST 2014

Code of Conduct: The following Code of Conduct relates to the rules and regulations of The Football Association in respect of betting-related integrity. The Rules and Regulations govern the conduct of participants.

The definition of participants includes the following individuals associated with the football club:

- Management / Board members / Club owners
- Club official
- Player
- Coach
- Employee (both permanent and event staff)
- Voluntary workers
- Contractors

All such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by The Football Association.

For the avoidance of doubt, as per the current betting rules, the rules apply to everyone playing and working in football. This also includes volunteers and contractors. The Club acknowledges that some people contained in the above definitions are employed by outside companies which may have their own codes of conduct; however, when carrying out duties for or at the Club, this Code of Conduct must be adhered to.

Betting:

- From 1 August 2014, participants are not permitted to bet, or ask someone to bet for them, on any aspect of any football match or competition, anywhere in the world.
- There shall be a complete prohibition on betting, either directly or indirectly, by any participant at a club on the result, progress, conduct, or any other aspect of, or occurrence in, any football match or competition anywhere in the world.
- Such participants are also prohibited from betting, either directly or indirectly, on any other matter concerning or related to football anywhere in the world, including, for example, the transfer of players, employment of managers, team selection, or disciplinary matters.
- Participants are prohibited from passing inside information on to someone else who then uses it for, or in relation to, betting.
- Participants are also prohibited from entering into individual personal endorsements with betting companies promoting any aspect of football betting.

The FA may take disciplinary action against any participant found by another sport's disciplinary body to have committed a betting or fixing offence under the rules of that other sport.

Monitoring and Sanctions: Participants should be aware of the monitoring processes undertaken by The FA and The FA's powers in respect of sanctions:

- The FA works closely with specialist companies who monitor betting patterns from operators worldwide.
- The FA also has strong links with the Gambling Commission, individual betting operators, and law enforcement agencies.
- The FA has the power to interview participants and request provision of records, for example phone bills, betting accounts, and bank statements, in the course of an investigation.
- FA disciplinary commissions have a range of sanctions available, including fines and suspensions from all football-related activity.

Useful information:

- For further detailed information, participants should visit TheFA.com.
- Email - integrity@thefa.com
- FA Integrity Line - 0208 795 9640
- Gambling Commission Line - 0121 230 6655

REMEMBER! YOUR REPUTATION | YOUR RESPONSIBILITY | YOUR CAREER

Alvechurch Foundation – Policies Available on Request

Alvechurch Foundation Community Organisation maintains a comprehensive suite of policies to support safe, fair, and effective operations. The following policies are available upon request:

- Finance Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Alvechurch Foundation also holds a wider range of safeguarding, welfare, conduct, and operational policies that can be provided on request to ensure full transparency and compliance with organisational standards.