Ottershaw Junior Football Club – Coaches Code of Conduct

At Ottershaw Junior Football Club, our coaches play a vital role in creating a safe, positive and enjoyable football environment for every child. As representatives of the club, coaches are expected to uphold the highest standards of behaviour, safeguarding practice and professionalism.

By coaching at Ottershaw JFC, you agree to follow this Code of Conduct.

1. Safeguarding & Player Welfare

I will:

- Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of every child at all times.
- Follow all FA safeguarding policies, including reporting concerns immediately to the Club Welfare Officer.
- Maintain an in-date FA DBS check, Safeguarding Children qualification and First Aid training.
- Create an environment where children feel safe, respected and able to speak up.
- Ensure sessions follow Play Phase and FA guidance for supervision, ratios, welcome/departure and personal care.
- Treat all children equally, regardless of ability, confidence or background.

2. Coaching Standards & Behaviour

I will:

- Provide enjoyable, engaging sessions that help children learn, explore and develop.
- Use positive, encouraging language — never shouting, humiliating or intimidating players.
- Promote teamwork, respect, resilience and sportsmanship.
- Support mixed-ability participation and ensure every child feels included.
- Allow children to make mistakes and learn from them.
- Model the behaviour I expect from players and parents.
- Arrive prepared, organised and ready to deliver safe, structured sessions.

3. Respect for Players, Parents & Officials

I will:

- Treat players, parents, match officials and fellow coaches with respect at all times.
- Communicate clearly, calmly and professionally.
- Respect the referee's decisions and encourage players to do the same.
- Work collaboratively with parents, keeping them informed and involved appropriately.
- Challenge poor behaviour from spectators or players in line with club and FA guidelines.

4. Matchday & Training Responsibilities

I will:

- Ensure equipment is safe, appropriate and set up before players arrive.
- Keep accurate registers and follow sign-in/sign-out procedures.
- Maintain appropriate supervision and never leave children unattended.
- Ensure players have the correct kit, footwear and hydration.
- Manage substitutions and playing time fairly, prioritising development over results.
- Promote respect for opponents and officials before, during and after matches.

5. Communication & Conduct

I will:

- Communicate with parents through approved club channels only.
- Never engage in arguments, confrontations or inappropriate discussions with parents or spectators.
- Raise concerns with the Club Secretary or Welfare Officer rather than addressing them publicly.
- Maintain confidentiality and handle sensitive information responsibly.
- Represent the club positively at all times, both on and off the pitch.

6. Club Values & Responsibilities

I will:

- Uphold Ottershaw JFC's values of enjoyment, inclusion, respect and development.

- Support the club's philosophy of mixed-ability football and player-centred coaching.
- Encourage children to love the game, grow in confidence and develop life skills.
- Contribute to a welcoming, community-focused environment for all families.
- Attend club meetings, CPD opportunities and coaching updates when required.

7. Consequences of Breaching the Code

I understand that if I do not follow this Code of Conduct:

- I may be required to step back from coaching duties.
- Serious or repeated breaches may be referred to Surrey FA or The FA.

Our Commitment to Coaches

Ottershaw JFC will support you with safeguarding guidance, coaching resources, CPD opportunities and a positive environment where you can help children thrive.