

FA RESPECT PROGRAMME

Riverside Football Club supports the FA's Respect Programme. Respect is the FA's direct response to a clear message from the grassroots game.

Following a survey in 2008, it was discovered that behaviour was, and is the biggest cause for concern, both abuse and intimidation towards referees, and behaviour by over competitive parents and aggressive spectators on the sidelines.

Riverside will be expecting all Parents/Carers, Managers, Coaches, Club Officials and Players full support with adhering to the Respect Programme.

Respect is aimed at helping us work together to change the negative attitudes, and unacceptable behaviour on and off the pitch. It's a long term commitment, but if we all play our part, we can really make a difference.

The 4 steps to respect:

STEP ONE – CODE OF CONDUCT

Young Players

- Always do your best even if you're losing, and the opposition are stronger.
- Play fairly – don't cheat, waste time or complain.
- Never be rude to your team mates, opposition or Referee.
- Do what the Referee tells you.
- Shake hands with the other team and Referee at the end of the game.
- Listen to your Coach/Manager and listen to what they tell you.
- Talk to someone you trust if you're unhappy with the club i.e. parents or the Club Welfare Officer.

Adult Players

- Adhere to the rules of the game.
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour.
- Respect the decision of the match officials.
- Never engage in public criticism of match officials.
- Never engage in abusive, insulting or offensive language or behaviour.
- Always speak to your Manager/Coach and team mates with respect.
- Ask your team Captain to speak to the Referee if you have a problem relating to the game.
- Shake hands with the other team and Referee at the end of the game.
- Remember we all make mistakes.

Spectators, Parents/Carers

- Remain behind the designated spectator area at all times.
- Never engage in or tolerate offensive or insulting language and behaviour.
- Respect the decision of the match officials.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success.
- Remember that children play for fun.
- Coaches should always be allowed to do their job, and should not be confused by others telling the players what to do.
- Encourage players to respect the opposition and match officials.
- Never criticise a player for making a mistake.



Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators.
- Adhere to the laws of the game.
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour.
- Always respect the match officials decision.
- Never enter the field of play without the Referees permission.
- Never engage in public criticism of match officials.
- Never engage in or tolerate offensive or insulting language and behaviour.

When working with players I will:

- Place the well being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning.
- Explain exactly what I expect from my players, and what they can expect from me.
- Ensure that parents/carers of all players under 18 understand these expectations.
- Refrain from, and refuse to tolerate any form of bullying.
- Develop mutual trust and respect for every player to build their self esteem.
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players ability, experience, age and maturity.
- Cooperate fully with others in football for each player's best interest.

Match Officials

- Be honest, and completely impartial at all times.
- Apply the rules of the game fairly and consistently.
- Manage the game in a calm and positive manner.
- Deal with instances of violence, aggression, foul play and other misconduct.
- Support match official colleagues at all times.
- Set a positive example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game.
- Communicate with players and encourage fair play.
- Respond in a calm and confident manner to appropriate requests for clarification by team Captains.
- Prepare physically and mentally before a game.
- Complete and submit accurate and concise reports within the time limits required for the games which I officiate.

STEP 2 – DESIGNATED SPECTATOR AREAS

One of the key elements of Respect in youth football is the creation of designated areas for spectators.

This allows the coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players get instructions from just one side of the pitch.

Spectator areas should start 2 metres from the touchline on one side of the pitch. The area should run the full length of the pitch. This means no one should be watching from behind the goals.



STEP 3 – CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Captains have been asked to wear the Respect Captains Armband.

Often problems start at matches when players are abusive towards the Referee which escalates into several players confronting the Referee at the same time and then its anarchy!

Respect aims to stop this cycle before it starts. Only the Captain can challenge the decision made by the Referee, and the Captain needs to manage their team to ensure this is always observed.

Captains should be aware that they have no special rights or privileges under the laws of the game, but they do have a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of their team.

The Referee should work with the Captain to promote Respect and to manage the players and the game effectively.

STEP 4 – REFEREE MANAGING THE GAME

The Referee is expected to work with the Managers and team Captains to manage the teams and the game effectively.

The Respect programme aims to allow Referees to officiate matches without being subjected to abuse by players, coaches or spectators, and the Referees themselves have a key part to play in the process.

Working in partnership with the clubs they officiate, Referees can provide post match feedback regarding the behaviour of the players, parents, coaches and other spectators, to help the clubs enforce their Codes of Conduct.

