



Hereford Development Centre



Code of Conduct

Parent/Guardians, spectators and players are asked to read and comply with the club's code of conduct before completing the on-line registration document. It is important that all participants understand their roles and responsibilities and understand the consequences of failing to comply.

Hereford Development Centre has discussed and agreed Codes of Conduct for all members, including Players, Managers, Coaches and Parents, in line with Football Association (FA) guidance. Please take the content in the right spirit and be supportive in all aspects of the club. Primarily, the children of the club are our most important asset, and all our efforts revolve around them.

Remember, football is a time for players to develop their technical, physical, tactical, and social skills. Winning isn't everything. Everyone needs to play their part and observe the FA's Respect Code of Conduct.

Our club has three main responsibilities around the Codes:

1. To ensure everyone within the club (club members), whatever their role, has read, agreed and signed up to the Code of Code, read our policies and procedures and understands the actions which could be taken if these are broken. The inclusion of the Code of Conduct and policies and procedures into the registration process of club members ensures that all playing members can be made aware of their responsibilities at the point of joining the club.
2. To review and retain the Code of conduct so that they can be referred to if an individual's behaviour becomes unacceptable.
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks the Code of Conduct or Policies.

Code of Conduct for Players

On and off the field, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability and for the benefit of my team
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, dive, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/team manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Be gracious in victory and defeat – I will shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Understand that a coach/team manager must do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/ or all the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or the FA: I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Issued with a verbal or written warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games or training sessions
- Required to leave by the club, suspended, receive a fine by the county FA or have my club membership removed.

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any physical assault on a Match Official may result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

Code of Conduct for Spectators/Parents/Carers

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Support positively. When players make a mistake offer them encouragement not criticism
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or the FA: I may be:

- Issued with a verbal or written warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games or training sessions
- Required to leave by the club, suspended, receive a fine by the county FA or have my club membership removed.
- Be referred to the Authorities

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any physical assault on a Match Official will result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. On and off the field, I will:

- Use my position to set a positive example for the young people I am responsible for
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Be gracious in victory and defeat When working with players

I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA: I may:

- Issued with a verbal or written warning from a club or league official
 - Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
 - Obligated to undertake an education course
 - Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
 - Requested by the club not to attend future games or training sessions
 - Required to leave by the club, suspended, receive a fine by the county FA or have my club membership removed.
 - Be referred to the Authorities
- In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any physical assault on a Match Official will result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

Under the FA Disciplinary Code, Clubs can be sanctioned/fined for the behaviour of players, parents, spectators, and club officials. Hereford Development Centre will investigate any breaches of the FA Disciplinary Code and where proven that an individual has brought the club into disrepute Lads Club will recover the fine amount from the individual and consider a club sanction thereafter.

Policies and Procedures

In football, all participants, including players, coaches, parents, and volunteers, have a responsibility to follow the policies and procedures outlined on our website. These rules are in place to ensure a safe, fair, and respectful environment for everyone involved in the game. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in sanctions, which can include a formal warning, suspension, or even expulsion from the club or organisation, depending on the severity of the breach. By upholding these standards, we can work together to promote the values and integrity of grassroots football. Please ensure you have read through our policies which are available via the club websites: www.hereforddevelopmentcentre.co.uk

Reporting Incidents and Welfare Concerns

Hereford Development Centre Team Officials, Volunteers and Parents have responsibilities as set out in the FA Code of Conduct as well as the Clubs own Code of Conduct. Any concerns should be submitted using the [Incident Report form](#).

Any disputes should be brought to in the first instance to the Club Welfare Officer; arguments and fallouts must not be conducted in front of the children. All club members and must always show themselves to be ambassadors for the club and so set a good example to the children. We actively encourage all club members to collaborate to form a good partnership.

We want this Club to be something to be very proud of, and to ensure that visitors to the Club leave impressed at what we can achieve and how we as a Club conduct ourselves.

Social Media and Team WhatsApp Groups

Players/Parents/Spectators/Coaches/Managers/Committee Members:

- Should only use social media networks in a safe, respectful and positive manner between teammates, other teams and the coach/manager
- MUST NOT upload, post, host, text or email things that are hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening or discriminating as this would go against the clubs Code of Conduct and could also be against the law. □ Refrain from taking photos without prior consent.
- Refrain from uploading images to any social media network without all persons' prior consent. □ Coaches/managers should not contact players using any form of social media.
- Players should not use internet, web-based, phones or any other method of communication to coaches regarding non-football personal matters
- Players should not contact/try to add or accept any invitations on any social network site from adult coaches/managers as this is strictly prohibited.
- Should not delete inappropriate text, emails or messages sent to you as they may be required as a form of evidence for a subsequent investigation.
- Must not post anything on social media networks or in WhatsApp group chats that may bring the club in disrepute.
- A club Welfare Officer is to remain in all team chats.
- Any official statement will need to be approved by Hereford Development Centre before release.

Any inappropriate usage of social media or a breach of any points raised above will be investigated fully and may result in notification to the HFA, in more serious cases the Police and the club may also issue a sanction outlined in the welfare and disciplinary process.

On behalf of Hereford Development Centre Committee:

Simon Measor
HDC Chairman

Jo Measor
HDC Secretary

Danny Moon
Operations Director

James Edmonds
Head coach

Katrina Williams
Welfare Officer

Emma Walton
Treasurer

For welfare: hereforddcwelfare@gmail.com. General enquiries hello@hereforddevelopmentcentre.co.uk