

Woodley Town Football Club Codes of Conduct

The aims of Woodley Town Football Club ("The Club") are to provide coaching, training and football played to the highest standards of sportsmanship. In order to achieve this, the Club asks all of its officials, players and supporters to be role models, both on and off the field, who:

- ◆ abide by the rules of the club, the football leagues we are members of, The FA and Berks & Bucks FA and the Laws of the Game.
- ◆ respect the decisions of match officials and team managers.
- ◆ display and encourage sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork.
- ◆ are courteous to opposing teams.
- ◆ discourage all forms of abusive behaviour and conduct.
- ◆ enjoy them and have fun.

More specifically:

Players:

Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team and for the team to win is the most fundamental part of the game. But not winning at any cost – fair play and respect for all others in the game is fundamentally important.

Obligations towards the game

A player should:

- ◆ make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, technique, tactics and stamina.
- ◆ give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game, even if his team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
- ◆ set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- ◆ avoid all forms of gamesmanship and time-wasting.
- ◆ always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- ◆ NOT use inappropriate language.
- ◆ ensure their Team Manager is informed promptly, by themselves or parent / guardian when they are unavailable for training and team selection.
- ◆ turn up on time for training and matches.
- ◆ ensure they (or parents / guardians) pay promptly signing on fees and match / training fees.
- ◆ take good care of theirs and the club's kit and take pride in their appearance.
- ◆ take sensible precautions to protect their belongings and those of other players, particularly in changing rooms.
- ◆ not smoke on the field of play before / after a match including half time and while attending training.

Obligations towards one's own team

A player should:

- ◆ make every effort consistent with fair play and the laws of the game to help his team win.
- ◆ resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning.

Respect for the laws of the game and competition rules

A player should:

- ◆ know and abide by the laws, rules and spirit of the game, and the competition rules.
- ◆ accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
- ◆ resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

Respect towards opponents

A player should:

- ◆ treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
- ◆ safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents.

Respect towards the Match Officials

A player should:

- ◆ accept the decision of the Match Official without protest.
- ◆ avoid words or actions which may mislead a match Official.
- ◆ show due respect towards Match Officials.

Respect towards Team Officials

A player should:

- ◆ abide by the instructions of their Coach and Team Officials, provided they do not contradict the spirit of this code.
- ◆ show due respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition.

Obligations towards the Supporters and Club Sponsors

A player should:

- ◆ show due respect to the interests of supporters and sponsors.

Team Managers and Coaches:

Team Manager and coaches are key to the establishment of ethics in football. Their concept of ethics and their attitude directly affects the behaviour of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct. Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate themselves from a “win-at-all-costs” attitude. Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of the club, school, coach or parent.

Set out below is The FA Coaches Association Code of Conduct (which reflects the standards expressed by the National Coaching Foundation and the National Association of Sports Coaches) which forms the benchmark for all involved in coaching:

- ◆ coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
- ◆ coaches must place the wellbeing and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- ◆ coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.

- ◆ coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- ◆ coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- ◆ coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- ◆ coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
- ◆ coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, parent) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- ◆ coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
- ◆ coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- ◆ coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- ◆ not to use or tolerate inappropriate language.

In addition the Club expects Team, Managers and Coaches to ensure:

- ◆ a trained first aider, with a basic first aid kit, attends all matches and training sessions.
- ◆ players who receive injuries are dealt with promptly and considerately.
- ◆ players are properly equipped for matches and training and do not wear jewellery that is likely to cause injury.
- ◆ playing conditions are safe before starting matches or training.
- ◆ match and training facilities and changing rooms are left in a clean and tidy state.
- ◆ match result cards contain a frank and fair assessment of the referee.
- ◆ new players, who are known to have a poor disciplinary record, are not recruited into the club.
- ◆ accurate financial records are kept of the squad's activities.
- ◆ not smoke on the field of play before / after a match including half time and while attending training.

Club Officials:

Obligations towards the Game

The club official should:

- ◆ set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- ◆ promote and develop the club having regard to the interest of the Players, Supporters and reputation of the national game.
- ◆ share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interest of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests.
- ◆ avoid all forms of gamesmanship.
- ◆ show due respect to Match Officials and others involved in the game.
- ◆ always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- ◆ not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

Obligations towards the Team

The team official should:

- ◆ make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the club/team, and to obtain the best results by the team, using all permitted means.
- ◆ give priority to the interests of the team over individual interests.
- ◆ resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques.
- ◆ promote ethical principles.

- ◆ show due respect to the interests of players, coaches and other officials, at their own club/team and others.

Obligations towards the Supporters

The team official should:

- ◆ show due respect to the interests of supporters.

Respect towards the Match Officials

A team official should:

- ◆ accept the decisions of the Match Official without protest.
- ◆ avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official.
- ◆ show due respect towards Match Officials.

Club Officials will also ensure that:

- ◆ new managers are properly vetted, interviewed and briefed prior to appointment as per the Club's constitution
- ◆ players, officials and spectators who incur fines recompense the Club promptly.
- ◆ players and officials with unsatisfactory disciplinary records are required to leave the club.
- ◆ they do not smoke on the field of play before / after a match including half time and while attending training.

Parents / Guardians (of youth team members)

Parents / Guardians have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they first and foremost love the game – it's fun. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within your club it is important to reinforce the message to parents / spectators that positive encouragement will contribute to:

- ◆ children enjoying football.
- ◆ a sense of personal achievement.
- ◆ self-esteem.
- ◆ assist to improve the child's skills and techniques.

Parents / Guardians will ensure that:

- ◆ the Team Manager is informed of any health problems eg, asthma, hay fever or epilepsy or injuries that their child may have and that appropriate medication is available.
- ◆ their child trains and plays football for the club only when they are fit and well enough to do so.
- ◆ they never force a child to play football; they should want to play and enjoy it.
- ◆ offer to help the club in any way you can. The club is run by volunteers and needs parents to actively help and support it
- ◆ they read and understand the club's procedures on child protection and other codes of conduct.
- ◆ they praise effort and performance more than results.
- ◆ they praise good behaviour quickly to show adults value it.
- ◆ they arrive in good time to collect their child from training sessions and matches when they (parent) have not stayed for the training session or match.
- ◆ they do not argue with the officials; they are volunteers as well!
- ◆ they do not coach from the sidelines or shout at a player that makes a mistake.
- ◆ they stay off the pitch during and after matches.
- ◆ they show the players you enjoy watching the game no matter what the result.
- ◆ they talk to your child's manager if you have concerns and questions.

Spectators:

Nearly all our spectators are parents, relations of friends of the players.

Enjoy being a spectator, but please take note of the points listed below.

- ◆ Set a good example
Youngsters tend to copy their conduct and attitude of adults
- ◆ Recognise sporting behaviour
Show that you appreciate sportsmanship on the field. Encouraging players to shake hands at the end of the game is just one example
- ◆ Appreciate good football
Show that you do appreciate good skills by both teams.
- ◆ Consider others
Even if excited by the game, remember to be considerate to other spectators - young and old.

Take all your possessions and rubbish away with you after a match rather than leave for others or local authorities to remove.
- ◆ Learn the Laws of Association Football
Then you will appreciate how difficult interpretation can be. Never criticise referees by shouting from the touchlines. Without the referee there is no game to watch.
- ◆ Never using foul or abusive language or aggressive behaviour
Under The FA rules, Woodley Town FC is responsible for your behaviour on the touchline.

Stay off the pitch during and after matches.

Don't let us down. More importantly don't let the youngsters down.

Woodley Town FC will withdraw our teams from any game regardless of the consequences should any manager believes this behaviour is occurring.
- ◆ Alcohol
Ideally the Club would prefer alcohol not to be drunk on the touchline, but if it is please use plastic beakers and not glasses or cans.