



2.5 Template: Code of conduct for adults

Codes of conduct are important as they set out expected behaviours. They are more than a list of what can and cannot be done; they are a shared set of agreed and acceptable behaviours that help to create and maintain a positive, fun and safe environment for children.

This sample code of conduct is provided as a suggestion. You can include other issues that you believe are important given your context.

Code of conduct

On and off the field, I will lead by example when it comes to good sportsmanship and be a role model for children by:

- Always respecting the rights, dignity and worth of everyone involved in games regardless of their age, race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason;
- Sticking to the rules and celebrating the spirit of the game;
- Encouraging fair play and high standards of behaviour;
- Never engaging in, or tolerating offensive, insulting or abusive behaviour or language;
- Always being supportive of children's efforts and valuing more than just winning.

When working with children under 18 years old, I will:

- Comply with the child safeguarding policy, and put the well-being, safety and enjoyment of children above everything else;
- Challenge any form of bullying among children;
- Provide meaningful opportunities that empower all children;
- Not humiliate or belittle children or their efforts in a match or training session;
- Not groom or exploit a child for personal or financial gain;
- Not engage in any sexual relationship with any player under 18 years of age, which includes not making sexually suggestive comments to a child;

- Engage in or allow any verbal, physical or sexually provocative games or inappropriate touching with children;
- Ensure all activities are suitable for children's abilities and ages;
- Work with others (e.g. doctors, physiotherapists) for each player's best interests;
- Never use physical abuse or chastisement;
- Always ensure that children are properly supervised and that arrangements for tournaments and away matches are safe, which includes not sharing rooms with children;
- Respect children's privacy, for example not entering showers and changing rooms without permission and not providing personal care that children can do for themselves;
- Ensure that any treatment, e.g. physiotherapy, takes place in an open and supervised environment, rather than in private;
- Avoid spending time alone with children away from others;
- Not engage in inappropriate use of social media, which includes not engaging children in private social media conversations and never posting comments or sharing images that could compromise their well-being or cause them harm;
- Not post photographs or other information about children or their families on my personal social media (e.g. Facebook or websites) or the club/organisation's social media, without the permission of the children concerned and their parents;
- Share any concerns I have about the safety and well-being of children, including about individual children, with the child safeguarding focal point or, if not appointed, with management.

I understand that if I do not follow the code, I may be subject to measures that could include suspension, loss of licence, dismissal and referral to outside child protection agencies or the police. By signing the code, I confirm that there are no reasons for concern about my suitability to be involved with children and football, e.g. previous convictions or allegations of child abuse.

NAME:

DATE:

SIGNATURE: