

## Respect Policy

The Peterborough & District Football League has joined the FA **Respect** programme as from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008. All our clubs and referees have signed the **Respect** code of conduct. It is our responsibility to implement these improvements, which when successfully applied will ensure a greater enjoyment of all involved in football.

**Respect** is a Continuous FA programme, not a one-off initiative.

Its goal is to allow people to play, officiate and watch football without being abused, mocked, insulted, jeered, physically assaulted, unnecessarily criticised, pushed too hard, driven to tears or laughed at for trying.

We know only too well that referees can, and do, experience abuse on the pitch and from the sidelines.

**Respect** aims to deal with the abuse of referees by making it unacceptable and just as importantly, taking action against those committing the abuse.

This information explains how, and recognises the vital role referees have to play, as everyone playing or watching football looks to the referee for guidance and decisions.

The **Respect** programme includes four practical steps to improve behaviour – on the pitch – and on the sidelines:

1. **Codes of Conduct** – for players, spectators, match officials and coaches.
2. **Referees managing the game** (applying the Laws of the Game).
3. **Captain taking responsibility**
4. **Designated Spectator's Area** – along the sidelines, within which all spectators should stay.

There is still a shortage of referees nationally and we hope **Respect** will encourage referees to stay in the game and others to give it a go.

Clearly, **Respect** does not alter a referee's basic responsibilities when officiating and controlling a football match:

### **To use and apply:**

- The Laws of the Game
- Effective management
- Positive communication skills.

Creating an encouraging environment should result in an enjoyable experience for everyone. Referees are asked to be pro-active, not look for problems, but to deal positively with negative behaviour when it occurs.

## **Match officials**

Have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

### **Match officials when officiating: -**

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times, irrespective of the teams, players or team officials involved in the match.
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently.
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner.
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct.
- Not tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials.
- Support my match official colleagues at all times.
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game.
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play.
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains.
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match.
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games, which I officiate.

**I understand that breaches of the code may result in action being taken by my County FA and/or The FA.**

## **Players**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

Players tell us they want a referee for every match, yet 7,000 match officials drop out each season because of the abuse and intimidation they receive on and off the pitch. **Respect** your referee today and you may just get one for every match this season.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect** Code of Conduct for players at all times.

### **Players on and off the field: -**

- Adhere to the Laws of the Game.
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour.
- Promote fair play and behave within the spirit of the Laws of the Game.
- Always **respect** the match officials' decisions.
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials.
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.
- Avoid bullying, intimidation and poor behaviour.
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manger with **Respect**
- Ask my team captain to talk to the referee if I have a problem relating to the game.
- Remember we all make mistakes.
- Shake hands with the opposing team and the match officials at the end of every game.

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## **Coaches, Team Managers and Club officials**

Have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In The FA's survey of over 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included both the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour by over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sidelines.

### **Coaches, Team Managers and Club officials on and off the field: -**

- 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' decisions.
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials.
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

### **Coaches, Team Managers and Club officials when working with players: -**

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

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