



## **GROVE CHALLENGERS FOOTBALL CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to clearly outline the expected code of conduct for managers, coaches, players, parents/carers and spectators. It has been produced in accordance with FA guidelines as well as in consultation with the clubs committee and agreed by a majority vote.

### **Introduction**

Grove Challengers FC (hereafter the 'Club') was founded in 1971 and has a proud history as well as a sound tradition of promoting the participation of football by juniors of all ages, sexes and abilities. The excellent reputation of the club is achieved by promoting a set of values that are enshrined in this code of conduct. The FA runs a Respect programme of which details can be accessed via the FA website [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com).

In conjunction with this, the Club has produced a code of conduct which it expects all involved with the Club to adhere to.

### **Coaches, Managers and Team Officials**

All involved in administering and running a Grove Challengers team is expected to:

- 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;
- Always respect the match official's decision;
- 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.

Whilst working with players, coaches, managers and team officials are expected to:

- 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 all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations;
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying;
- Develop mutual trust and respect with 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 level, age and maturity;
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

Failure to uphold these codes may result in:

- Requirement to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer;
- Required to meet with the club committee;
- Monitored by another club coach;
- Required to attend an FA education course;
- Suspended by the club from attending matches;
- Suspended or fined by the County FA;
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club.

## **Players**

The Club expects players to promote a high standard of behaviour in the game. Therefore whilst playing football, the Club expects all players to:

- Always play to the best of their ability;
- Play fairly by not cheating, complaining or wasting time;
- Respect their team-mates, the other team, the referee or their coach/manager;
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee;
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game;
- Listen and respond to what their coach/team manager tells them;
- Talk to someone they trust or the club welfare officer if they're unhappy about anything at the Club.

Players may receive a caution (yellow card) or be dismissed (red card) whilst playing for the Club. For these instances a fine may be incurred which the Club expects to be paid by the player (or parent/carer). The following steps shall be followed to enable communication and payment to be undertaken:

- The Club secretary will contact the player plus parent/carer to inform them that a fine has been received from the league or FA;
- The correspondence will be copied to the team Manager, the Club Chairperson and the Club Treasurer but nobody else in accordance with the Clubs Data Protection Policy;
- The player (or parent/carer) will have 14 days to pay the relevant fine;
- If the fine is not paid within this timescale then the player will be suspended from all football activities with the Club until the fine is paid.

Failure of a player to follow this code of conduct may result in the player:

- Being required to apologise to their team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager;
- Receiving a formal warning from the coach or the club committee;
- Being dropped or substituted;

- Being suspended from training;
- Being required to leave the club.

### **Spectators and Parents/Carers**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. The club is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment. Remember children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Winning isn't everything. The Club expects parents/carers to play their part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times. For this, the Club expects spectators and parents/carers to:

- Remember that children play for FUN;
- Always respect the match officials' decisions;
- Remain outside the field of play 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;
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning;
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

Failure to adhere to these codes of conduct may result in being:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official;
- Required to meet with the club, league or County FA Welfare Officer;
- Required to meet with the club committee;
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course;
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club;
- Requested by the club not to attend future games;
- Suspended or have my club membership removed;
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents.

### **The Club**

The Club, as run by the elected management committee, will endeavour to uphold all of the values within the codes of conduct laid out in this policy. If a player, parent/carer or Club member feels that the codes of conduct are not being followed then they have the right to contact the Club committee, Club welfare Officer or the local league or FA Welfare Officer.