



Kilkerrin United

*Code of Conduct for
Players &
Parents/Guardians*

Code of Conduct & Good Practice for Parents/Guardians

Football & Young People

Football, like all sports, provides an excellent pathway for children and young people to learn new skills, become more confident and maximise their own potential. Through their participation, they can learn and develop life skills, have fun and enjoyment, make friends and experience life in a way that can enhance their personal growth throughout their lives.

People become involved in football for young people for a variety of different reasons. They come from a variety of sporting backgrounds and take on various roles within Kilkerrin United Football Club and other football organisations. Yet irrespective of their role or responsibility, they all share the common goal of providing football opportunities for young people.

Parents, coaches and administrators all have an important role to play in promoting good practice in children's sport. They should have, as their first priority, the children's safety and enjoyment of the sport.

Kilkerrin United wants football to be safe, to be fun and to ensure that no matter what level of the game young people are involved in, that it takes place in the spirit of 'FAIR PLAY'.

Fair play is the guiding principle of the Irish Sport's Council's Code of Ethics as well as the FAI's Code of Ethics and Good Practice programme which is designed to provide guidance for those working with young people in football. It outlines the type of issues that need to be discussed and addressed to provide the safest and most enjoyable environment not only for young people but also the coaches and volunteers involved.

Focusing on individual participants' needs encourages young people to achieve and demonstrate enjoyment, equality and fair play. Through this they will come to realise that standards of behaviour are equally as important as sports performance.

In taking this approach children are encouraged to:

- Do their best – put in their best effort.
- Improve and develop their skills.
- Make friends.
- Play by the rules.
- Appreciate/accept everyone in the group, regardless of ability, race, religion, gender etc.

Guide for Parents / Guardians

Parents / guardians play an important role in promoting children's happiness and success in football and sport in general.

Parental expectations and behaviour have a significant bearing on children's attitude and behaviour while participating in football.

Parents / guardians need to be aware of why children want to play football. Children want to learn new skills, make new friends, be part of a group, to win and be successful, experience challenges, excitement and action.

While winning is important, it must be remembered that winning at all costs does not meet the needs of players. Results are not necessarily a good indicator of coaching effectiveness or ability, the improvement level of players and their level of enjoyment is.

Support and encouragement from parents / guardians will contribute to children having:

- A sense of personal achievement.
- An enjoyment of soccer.
- Improved physical fitness.
- Higher self-esteem.
- A greater level of skill
- Improved social skills.



It is important for parents / guardians to find out what their children want from football, and help them to set realistic targets to achieve this. This may involve controlling their own aspirations and avoiding the desire to force their own dreams or unfulfilled ambitions on them.

Parents/Guardians should:

- Encourage but not force children to be active.
- Know when he / she are ready to play.
- Encourage healthy lifestyle habits.
- Attend training and games regularly.
- Promote and teach FAIR PLAY.
- Teach your child to treat referees, other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, colour, gender or ability.
- Help children to set realistic targets.
- Help children with decision making.

Parents/Guardians should not:

- Ignore or dismiss complaints or concerns expressed by a child which relate to his/her involvement in soccer.
- Ridicule or shout at a child for losing a game or making a mistake.
- Treat any club as a child minding service.
- Take safety for granted.
- Put undue pressure on any child to please or perform well.

Most importantly parents / guardians should: "Lead By Example"

Parent / Coach Co-Operation

It is important that parents / guardians establish contact with the individual responsible for coaching their child. In addition, parents / guardians should:

- Complete the Garda Vetting and Safeguarding obligations so as to be in a position to give the coach help if required.
- Show appreciation to coaches and other volunteers who give their time to coach and develop your child.
- Support the coaches' and referees' decisions. These individuals are only doing the best they can and they need support not anger.
- Refrain from contacting the coach unless it is necessary, respect they have a private life.
- Inform the coach about any illness, injury, holidays, etc in advance.

- Make a genuine effort to have your child attend all training sessions and games.
- Communicate any concerns you may have to the coach.
- Ensure your child has appropriate equipment/clothing/refreshments.
- Ensure your child does not wear any jewellery of any description while playing.
- Encourage FAIR PLAY at home and do not instil a “win at all costs” attitude in children.
- Be positive or be quiet, negative comments are counter-productive.
- Conduct themselves in such a way which promotes the definition of FAIR PLAY.
- Be prepared to be asked to leave by officials or club personnel if behaviour is contrary to the definition of FAIR PLAY.

Parents / Guardians should never:

- Insult players or club personnel.
- Argue with, or shout abuse at officials and they should actively discourage children or young players from doing likewise.
- Suggest or encourage cheating, aggressive or "dirty" play.
- Placing undue or inappropriate criticism on a player, causing the player unnecessary or unhealthy levels of stress.
- Behave with physical or verbal aggression towards another person (actually uses force or threatens the use of force).
- Engage in any "harassment" type of behaviour.

In promoting “Football for Fun” everyone involved in the organisation of football should:

- Encourage participation and fun for all.
- Promote the development of skills as opposed to winning at all costs.
- Emphasise and praise effort.
- Act as a good role model.
- Insist on Fair Play.
- Be realistic with expectations.
- Be aware of children’s feelings.
- Teach players to respect different cultures

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are often given to children for security, enabling parents to keep in touch and make sure they are safe. However such technology has also allowed an increase in direct personal contact with young people, in some cases used to cross personal boundaries and cause harm. Within clubs there is a need to encourage responsible and secure use of mobile phones. In this respect Coaches are advised to:

- Use group texts for communication among athletes and teams and inform parents of this at the start of the season
- It is not appropriate to have constant communication for individual athletes
- Don’t use the phone in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. changing rooms

Child Protection

Anybody with any concerns in relation to Child Protection has an obligation to report to the relevant club personnel, to Tusla or to An Garda Suiochana

Kilkerrin United Club Welfare Officer – Seamus Keane 086-8187223
Kilkerrin United Designated Liaison Officer - Patrick Gordon 087-4133551

Code of Conduct & Good Practice for Players

Children in soccer are entitled to:

- Be safe.
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.
- Participate in football on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability and stage of development.
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy football.
- Make a complaint in an appropriate way and have it dealt with through a proper and effective complaints procedure.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Be listened to and to be believed.
- Have a voice in the running of the club. Children should also be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat other children, referees, fellow players, coaches and volunteers with the same degree of fairness and respect.

In this regard players should undertake to:

- Play fairly, do their best and have fun.
- Make high standards of Fair Play the standard others want to follow.
- Wear the club colours and not wear jewellery or accessories of any kind when playing.
- Respect opponents, they are not the enemy, they are partners in a sporting event.
- Shake hands before and after the match, whoever wins.
- Give opponents a hand if they are injured, put the ball out of play so they can get attention.
- Accept apologies from opponents when they are offered.
- Respect fellow team members and support them both when they do well and when things go wrong.
- Treat players from minority groups with the same respect you show other people.
- Be modest in victory and be gracious in defeat "BE A SPORT".
- Approach the club Children's Officer with any questions or concerns they might have. Coaches and parents should encourage children to speak out and support them in doing so

Players should not:

- Cheat.
- Use abusive language, or argue with, the referee, officials, team mates or opponents.
- Use violence, use physical contact only when it is allowed within the rules.
- Bully.
- Tell lies about adults or other children.
- Spread rumours.
- Take banned substances to improve performance.
- Keep secrets about any person who may have caused them harm

Mobile Phones

Children are encouraged to leave their phones at home. Phones in certain locations; inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person, e.g. changing rooms, so for this instance phones are encouraged to be left at home. Parents will be notified of the duration of training and if an incident does occur or parents need to be contacted the coach can do so.