

**MAYNOOTH TOWN A.F.C.**  
**EST. 1969**



Code of Principles and Best Practice

Of

Maynooth Town Association Football Club

November 2020

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## **1 VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of Maynooth Town AFC (the Club) is to be a whole of community club that provides and supports the opportunity for all in the community to participate, progress, develop and enjoy soccer at a level appropriate to their ability and talent and to maximise the potential for young players to achieve their goals.

## **2 MISSION STATEMENT**

Maynooth Town AFC (the Club) provides children and young players in Maynooth and surrounding areas with the opportunity to have fun playing soccer and to develop their skills in a safe, positive and nurturing environment where standards of behaviour and how we carry ourselves are just as important as winning.

The Club will :

- Aspire to the highest standards in governance, management, accountability and volunteerism
- Promote and support the sustainable development of our Club through the active participation of our members
- Attract, support and manage the resources required to achieve our goal for the continuous development of our standards and facilities for the benefit of our members and the wider community.

The primary focus is on player welfare and development, to be inclusive of community and to provide equal opportunity for participation, development and achievement in soccer at all levels.

Competition and winning is an important goal but winning at all or any costs does not meet the needs of any young player. The experience that children and young people have of playing soccer should be guided by what is best for the child or young person. The abilities of the children and the stages of their development should guide the types of activity within the club.

### **3 PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD PLAYERS & MEMBERS FROM HARM**

The following principles are designed to guide the development of sport for the members of the Club and should be adhered to :

**Player First** : The importance of players of all ages and abilities should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport. A player's sports experience should be guided by what is best for the player. Leadership roles should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of all players from nursery to seniors.

**Integrity in Relationships** : Coaches, managers or anybody representing the club and interacting with players and young coaches are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that players and coaches are treated with integrity and respect and that the self-esteem of players and coaches is enhanced. All actions should be guided by what is best for the players and coaches and in the context of quality and open working relationships. The players and coaches should respect their fellow club members and visitors. Abuse of any kind - verbal, physical, emotional or sexual - is unacceptable.

**Equality** : All members will be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

**Quality Atmosphere and Ethos** : All activity should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging environment. A player centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept at an appropriate level. The aim is that unhealthy competitive demands are not placed on children too early to avoid excessive levels of pressure and a high level of dropout from sport.

**Fair Play** : Sport should be conducted in an atmosphere where the principles of fair play should always be emphasised. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving. There should be clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.

**Competition** : A balanced approach to competition can make a significant contribution to the development of young players, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and satisfaction. Coaches/managers should aim to put the welfare of the player first and competitive standards second. A player-centred approach will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

#### **4 VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT POLICY**

Maynooth Town AFC depends on the voluntary effort of all its volunteers. Volunteers are the driving force of the club. Without volunteers, the Club would not be in a position to offer football opportunities in our community. It is important that the Club provides a healthy environment for volunteers and recruits the right people for the right job. The following steps will help to protect young people and assist in placing volunteers in a position to which they are suited and supported.

- Role Descriptions : The Club will provide a role description for all volunteer positions that will include a set of tasks.
- Application Process : An application form may be provided to collect relevant information and an interview may be scheduled with at least two members of the Executive Committee or representatives appointed by the Executive Committee. Depending on the position, references may also be sought.
- Garda Vetting : In line with legislation and the FAI's child welfare policy, everyone working with children or vulnerable adults will require Garda Vetting before starting their role.
- Induction : Every new volunteer will receive an induction to ensure that they are familiar with the Club surroundings and aware of the Club's policies and procedures.
- Training : Where possible, the Club will provide training to upskill volunteers.
- Volunteers : All volunteers will adhere to the Code of Principles and Best Practice.

#### **5 TRUSTEES**

The Club has no legal capacity to own property in its own right unless the property is registered in the name of each and every member. The property of the Club shall be vested in or under the legal control of the Trustees and the Trustees shall be entitled to be indemnified in respect of all transactions directed by the Executive Committee out of Club property.

There shall not be more than seven (7) or less than three (3) Trustees and they shall be appointed by a Special Annual General Meeting of the Club. Each Trustee shall, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be an Honorary Member and shall hold office until resignation or removal from office by an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

The Trustees are expected to :

- 5.1 Act solely in the interests of the Club
- 5.2 Declare any conflicts of interest that may exist and to not place these interests above those of the Club

#### **6 PRESIDENT**

This is an honorary title and is recognition of extraordinary service over many (at least 10) years.

The President will have no executive role. The role of President could include promotion of soccer within the community and 'ceremonial' duties such as presenting awards or attending events as a representative of Maynooth Town AFC.

## **7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee of the Club is responsible for the management of all matters related to the business and affairs of the Club and has full power and discretion to act in the best interests of the Club at all times. The role of the Executive Committee is to operate as a team, drawing on the skills and talents of each member, and to work towards common goals to ensure the success of the Club.

The members of the Executive Committee are expected to :

- 7.1 Have a commitment to the Club
- 7.2 Have leadership skills and a willingness to accept responsibility
- 7.3 Have an understanding of the role of the Executive Committee and their role within it
- 7.4 Exercise discretion and treat matters discussed as confidential unless advised otherwise

## **8 CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson is responsible for upholding the Club Constitution and for the overall long-term direction of the Club.

The Chairperson is expected to :

- 8.1 Chair the Committee meetings and the AGM
- 8.2 Assist the Secretary to produce the agenda for meetings
- 8.3 Lead the Committee in making decisions for the benefit of the Club including strategic planning
- 8.4 Provide a report on activities to the membership at the AGM
- 8.5 Ensure that planning and budgeting is carried out in accordance with Club policies and the wishes of members
- 8.6 Be a facilitator for club activities
- 8.7 Liaise with relevant stakeholders including local authorities, affiliated leagues and the FAI

## **9 SECRETARY**

The Secretary acts as the primary administrator for the club and carries out or oversees administrative duties on behalf of the Executive Committee. The Secretary has an essential role within the Club, with a close involvement in the general running of the Club. The Secretary and his/her assistant provide the main point of contact for people within and outside the Club.

The Secretary is expected to :

- 9.1 Keep a complete and up to date list of members and their contact details
- 9.2 Register players with the relevant league

- 9.3 Be the initial point of contact for correspondence to the Club – the correspondence may then be passed to other Committee members or ‘tabled’ at the next meeting
- 9.4 Disseminate information for the Executive Committee
- 9.5 Call General Meetings of members
- 9.6 Prepare an agenda for Executive Committee and General Meetings prior to the meeting
- 9.7 Keep a record of all the decisions and discussions at Executive Committee and General Meetings
- 9.8 Circulate minutes of Executive Committee meetings to members
- 9.9 Write letters from the Club to other clubs, to leagues or to individuals

## **10 TREASURER**

The Treasurer maintains a record of all financial transactions undertaken by the Club and, alongside the Executive Committee, ensures the club’s financial well-being.

The Treasurer is expected to :

- 10.1 Collect membership fees and all monies due to the Club
- 10.2 Ensure prompt payment of invoices to ensure that the Club has a reputation for honesty and reliability
- 10.3 Keep up to date records of all financial transactions
- 10.4 Complete financial planning for the Club including production of an annual budget and monitoring throughout the year
- 10.5 Report regularly to the Executive Committee on the financial position of the Club
- 10.6 Prepare a year-end statement of accounts
- 10.7 Arrange for the statement of accounts to be audited
- 10.8 Present an end of year financial report to the AGM
- 10.9 Ensure that any statutory documents that are required (e.g. VAT returns, PAYE returns, Grant reports) are prepared and submitted.

## **11 CHILD WELFARE OFFICER**

The key role of the Child Welfare Officer is to ensure that appropriate codes and guidelines are followed in the Club to ensure that young people can participate, enjoy and benefit from playing soccer in safe and enjoyable surroundings.

The Child Welfare Officer is expected to :

- 11.1 Be informed and knowledgeable about child protection and welfare including FAI rules
- 11.2 Undertake any training considered necessary to keep themselves updated
- 11.3 Promote best practice and procedures within the Club

- 11.4 Provide briefings and updates to coaches on policies and any changes or advice about the practical application of the policies
- 11.5 Attend and organise required Child Protection courses in the club
- 11.6 Receive any reports and be able to carry out reporting procedures
- 11.7 Communicate with parents and/or authorities as appropriate
- 11.8 Be aware of local contacts and services relating to child protection
- 11.9 Inform statutory authorities of relevant concerns about individual children
- 11.10 Advise the Club on issues of confidentiality, record keeping and data protection

## **12 COVID-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

The role of the COVID-19 Compliance Officer is to ensure that the Club is compliant with the processes and procedures required by Government and Public Health policy relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that the Club COVID-19 Compliance Officer will be supported by COVID-19 Compliance Officers that will be attached to each team group.

Their role will be to attend and observe the training session, keep a record of all attendees for contact tracing purposes and to liaise with coaches and other COVID-19 Compliance Officers on the processes and procedures required.

These requirements are expected to evolve as the situation regarding the pandemic evolves and will initially include :

- 12.1 Ensuring that a COVID-19 Risk Assessment is carried out on the training venues used by the Club
- 12.2 Ensuring that COVID-19 signage is visible throughout the training facility
- 12.3 Ensuring that no changing rooms or showers are used
- 12.4 Ensuring that sanitary facilities are accessible for players and coaches
- 12.5 Ensuring that all training equipment, including goalposts are sanitized before and after every training session
- 12.6 Ensuring that the coaches and players understand and adhere to their responsibilities, as set out in the FAI Safer Return to Training Protocol
- 12.7 Keeping a record of attendees at all training sessions for contact tracing purposes
- 12.8 Ensuring that the requirements of the FAI Safer Return to Training & Play Protocols are adhered to

### **13 PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER / COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

The role of the PRO/Communications Officer is to manage the flow of information between Maynooth Town AFC and the wider community through various channels so that the image and reputation of the Club is presented in a positive manner.

The PRO / CO is expected to :

- 13.1 Maintain the Club website & social media channels and present the Club in a positive manner
- 13.2 Liaise with the Executive Committee, officers and officials to ensure that all key events, news and initiatives are communicated
- 13.3 Publicise Club activities such as games, open days, training sessions, player recruitment drives, fundraising efforts, selection of players for representative teams etc
- 13.4 Develop a good working relationship with media, schools and key community groups in the community
- 13.5 Be accessible to media and local groups – liaising with and answering queries from media, individuals and organisations where required
- 13.6 Devise and implement opportunities to promote the club

### **14 FIXTURES SECRETARY**

The role of the Fixtures Secretary is to ensure that teams are aware of fixture details and that results are forwarded to the relevant league. Fixtures are published on line by the respective leagues usually on Sunday night or Monday morning. The fixtures and pitch locations published may be subject to change.

The Fixtures Secretary is expected to :

- 14.1 Forward details of the following weekend's fixtures to each manager as soon as possible
- 14.2 Communicate with the leagues and other Fixtures Secretaries to confirm any changes in fixtures times or pitch locations
- 14.3 Allocate home pitches and times and circulate the details to the managers and referees by the Thursday evening
- 14.4 Organise pitch inspections when required. Advise coaches and referees as soon as possible if pitches are unplayable
- 14.5 Receive the results of each match from managers and forward them on to the relevant league as soon as possible after each match
- 14.6 Allocate pitches and training times to teams when weather and pitch availability allows training at the clubhouse
- 14.7 Forward details of any friendly matches to the league that the team plays in

## **15 FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT GROUP**

The role of the Football Oversight Group is consider improvements or changes that would enable the club to improve the standard of football while retaining our community ethos. It is to be a working group that will also act as a link between the Executive Committee and the coaches/managers.

The members should be a representative group representing the interests of the coaches across all age groups, SSG & 11AS and Boys & Girls.

The Football Oversight Group will be responsible for the following :

- 15.1 Establish a singular, cohesive and overarching approach to the club's football development
- 15.2 Create football pathways for participation, development and higher level performance
- 15.3 Recruitment, development and retention of players and coaches
- 15.4 Ongoing support and education for coaches/managers
- 15.5 Building a bridge for underage players to progress to senior level
- 15.6 The identity and presence of the Club in soccer terms within our community
- 15.7 An ongoing assessment of what is required in terms of the Club infrastructure & facilities to support the provision and development of soccer

## **16 COACHES / MENTORS**

The role of a Coach is to help the players on their team to develop their skills as individuals and as players within their team. Their attitude to the game directly informs the attitude of the players under their supervision and is critical to the establishment of good practices in football. Maynooth Town operates in alignment with the FAI Player Development Plan and coaches are required to adhere to this model.

Coaches are expected to :

- 16.1 Complete Garda Vetting and the Safeguarding 1 Course before commencing their role and refresh these requirements at least once every 3 years
- 16.2 Obtain coaching qualifications appropriate to the age group that they are coaching
- 16.3 Attend at least two manager meetings per season
- 16.4 Place the health, well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations
- 16.5 Ensure that the activities and strategies that they direct and advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players involved
- 16.6 Develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual respect
- 16.7 Clarify with the players (and, where the players are under the age of 18, their parents) what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from the coach
- 16.8 Guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance

- 16.9 Actively work with other coaches in the same age group to enable the progression of all players in that age group and to facilitate the movement of players between teams as appropriate
- 16.10 Be a link between the Club, parents and the community to encourage engagement and participation
- 16.11 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat each person equally within the context of the sport
- 16.12 Consistently display high standards of behaviour, comment integrity and fair dealing and not to use or tolerate the use of inappropriate language
- 16.13 Promote a positive approach to the game e.g. fair play, honest endeavour and genuine team-work and not to subscribe to the ethos of “win at all costs”
- 16.14 Be conversant with and abide by the laws of the game and the rules of any competition in which a team under his/her stewardship is participating. Demonstrate due respect towards match officials and accept their decisions
- 16.15 Not encourage or condone violations of the laws of the game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the game, or the use of questionable strategies or tactics
- 16.16 Co-operate with specialists within the game e.g. other coaches, officials, doctors, physiotherapists etc. in the best interest of players
- 16.17 Not encourage or condone the use of prohibited substances

If the Club receives a fine as a result of a coach being sent off for violent conduct or abusing a match official, the coach will be liable for paying the fine and not the Club.

In addition to abiding by the various rules and codes of practice, coaches have many functions other than to train the team and look after their team on match days.

#### PRE-SEASON :

Each year every coach should advise the club that they are interested in applying for or continuing with a position within the club. Where there is more than one application for a position and the parties are either unwilling or it is not practical for them to work together, an interview process will be undertaken to select the person for the role.

The coaches in each age group should work together to arrange trials, open training sessions and grading sessions at their age group to ensure that players are playing at the appropriate level. These sessions should be communicated to the PRO to ensure that they are advertised on the Clubs digital and social media platforms.

Players should play at their own age group. Exceptions may be made with the agreement of the Football Oversight Group or where players are required to make a team and a surplus of players is available from the age group one year younger.

Once players have registered with the Club and paid the initial fees, the Club will issue to each coach a list of eligible players for that age group. The coach should ensure that only players

on this list can train or play matches with the Club, except when trials/open training sessions are being held.

Each coach will assist the Secretary in ensuring that league registration forms for all their players are completed and returned in a timely manner to the Club to enable player registration with the league.

Each coach should request parents to apply for a league identity card (known as a PIP card) for each player by logging into the online portal [www.ageofimages.com](http://www.ageofimages.com) or attending a photo session in the clubhouse.

Each coach should take stock of equipment (jerseys, balls, bibs, cones, first aid kit etc) and obtain additional equipment where necessary.

Communication between the coach of underage teams and parents is essential. It is advisable that each coach uses a secure social media platform to communicate effectively with the parents.

#### TRAINING :

The teams in each age group should train at the same time and location whenever possible, even if the teams train separately once there. This will encourage players to be part of an age group rather than a team, it will allow coaches to provide cover for each other and share equipment and it will enable parents to share lifts and supervision. Importantly, it will assist underage players in being comfortable with moving between the teams in the age group when required.

When weather and pitch availability permits training at the clubhouse, each coach should request training times from the Fixtures Secretary. The Fixtures Secretary may decide to assign pre-season training slots as per the previous seasons training roster prior to the new training roster being confirmed. If the last team there, the coach must ensure that the clubhouse and gates are locked and that all lights are turned off before they leave.

Where it is not possible to train at the clubhouse, the coach should make other arrangements.

Where coaches cannot make training, they should notify parents as soon as possible. They should also advise the Fixtures Secretary or other facility being used so that the training slot can be used by others.

Each coach should follow a training plan so that there is structure to each training session and so that progression can be easily monitored.

It is good practice to keep a roll call for each training session.

Coaches will need to ensure, at the end of each training session, that players remove any empty bottles and gear and leave the facilities in good condition.

Where coaches are new, the Club will assign an experienced coach to assist them in the first couple of months.

#### MATCHES :

Friendly matches have to be approved by the relevant league in advance of the fixture. Managers looking to arrange a friendly match must forward details by email to the Club Secretary and the Fixtures Secretary as soon as possible. The details required are the names

of the two teams involved, the league and division that both teams play in, the location, the date and the time. The club will forward the details to the relevant league and confirm when the friendly match has been approved by the league.

League matches are published on line by the respective leagues usually on Sunday night or Monday morning. Each coach should notify the team/parents of the following weekend's fixture by Tuesday and request confirmation of player availability.

The fixtures published may be subject to change. Each coach should check with the Fixtures Secretary (or the Maynooth Town website) later in the week to ensure that kick off times or pitch locations have not changed.

If weather and/or pitches are doubtful, confirm with the Fixtures Secretary that home pitches are playable. Should it be an away fixture, the other club will usually contact the Fixtures Secretary if there are any issues but it is advisable that the coach contact the other teams Fixtures Secretary to confirm the match is still going ahead and exchange contact details. The NDSL/MGL/LSL have contact details for the various clubs on their website and many clubs also have contact details on their website.

The coach should confirm numbers and prepare a team sheet ensuring that each player is allotted the minimum playing time as set out by the FAI Player Development Plan.

The coach should collect subs from each player/parent to pay the referees fees. The home team pay the referee for league matches and the fee is divided between the two teams for cup matches. Referees fees differ for each age group and change regularly. The coach should confirm the current referee fees for their age group with the Club Secretary.

Coaches should ensure, at the end of each match, that players and supporters remove any empty bottles or rubbish from the pitch and leave the facilities in good condition.

After a match, each coach should send the results of their match to the Fixtures Secretary for onward communication to the league.

A team may request a maximum of two "idle weekends" a season from the league so that they do not have a fixture that weekend. The request must be received by the league 14 days in advance of the fixture date. Requests related to communions, confirmations and school or club trips are generally granted in addition to the two idles (the league may request a letter from the school or club to support the request).

All communication with the leagues should be via the Club Secretary or Fixtures Secretary only.

#### INJURIES :

Where an injury occurs, the coach must, as soon as possible after the incident, contact the parents/guardians of the player and the Club Secretary. The coach should provide the Club Secretary with an incident report to include the basic facts regarding the incident (player name, date/time/location, training/friendly match/league match, opposition if a match, other players involved, extent of injury, treatment administered etc).

Where an injury requires further treatment, such as physiotherapy, the Club Secretary must be notified. The Club has insurance in place that may assist with such costs but members must have exhausted any claims on their own personal insurance first.

## CLUBHOUSE DUTY :

Each coach (or a suitable delegate) should take turns at clubhouse duty as rostered by the Fixtures Secretary. Each team will be expected to be responsible for clubhouse duty twice a season. This allows the other coaches who have home games that day to focus on preparing their team for the match. Clubhouse duty involves :

- Ensuring that the clubhouse is opened at least 30 minutes before the first match
- Ensuring that goals are in position and safely staked with no gaps/holes in the nets and that corner flags (and cones where required for SSG) are in place at least 15 minutes before a match
- Dealing with any queries from the opposition teams and referees
- Ensuring that all the equipment is put away after the matches are finished
- Ensuring that lights are switched off, the clubhouse is securely locked and the gates are closed

## 17 PLAYERS

Players of Maynooth Town AFC are entitled to be :

- Safe
- Treated with dignity and respect
- Able to participate in soccer on an equal basis appropriate to their ability and stage of development
- Happy, have fun and enjoy soccer
- Able to make a complaint in an appropriate way and have it dealt with through a proper and effective complaints process
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality
- Be listened to and understood

In return, players will be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to show the same degree of respect to their team mates, other players, match officials, coaches and other club members and volunteers.

Players will be expected to :

17.1 Play because they enjoy football – not to please someone else

17.2 Do their best and have fun

17.3 Abide by all club rules

17.4 Consistently display high standards of behaviour

17.5 Arrive in good time for training and matches. Within the parameters of the FAI Player Development Plan, coaches may give more match time to players who attend regularly

- 17.6 Treat the changing rooms and facilities of all clubs with respect
- 17.7 Keep high standards of fair play
- 17.8 Respect opponents – they are partners in a sporting event
- 17.9 Shake hands before and after each match, regardless of the result
- 17.10 Let the referee handle incidents in the game – do not retaliate against opponents
- 17.11 Accept apologies from opponents when offered
- 17.12 Respect fellow team members and support them when they do well and when things go wrong
- 17.13 Understand that teamwork, effort and enjoyment are as important as winning
- 17.14 Learn to win and lose with dignity
- 17.15 Help when asked by coaches and officials
- 17.16 Thank coaches, officials and other volunteers who conduct an event

Players should not :

- 17.17 Cheat
- 17.18 Bully
- 17.19 Spread rumours or tell lies about adults or other children
- 17.20 Use foul/abusive language or argue with team mates, opponents, the referee, officials or supporters
- 17.21 Become involved in disputes with officials, opponents or supporters
- 17.22 Applaud sending-offs or the errors of opponents
- 17.23 Use violence or physical contact (except when it is allowed within the rules)
- 17.24 Take banned substances to improve performance
- 17.25 Smoke or take alcohol or any other non-prescribed substance before, during or after sporting activity while representing the Club
- 17.26 Behave in a manner that may bring the name of Maynooth Town AFC into disrepute

## **18 PARENTS / GUARDIANS**

Parents and guardians are expected to :

- 18.1 Appreciate that their children's involvement in playing soccer should be primarily for the child's personal enjoyment
- 18.2 Place the well being and safety of players and officials above all other considerations
- 18.3 Abide by the rules of Club

- 18.4 Clarify with the coach exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from the coach and player
- 18.5 Encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance – ensure that younger players are aware of what is expected of them
- 18.6 Develop an appropriate supportive relationship with both the coach and their child based on mutual trust and respect
- 18.7 Advise the coach when their child is unwell or injured or has been in the days prior to training or a match
- 18.8 Advise the coach of any issues that may affect their child in training, matches and/or their relationship with teammates
- 18.9 Emphasise the importance of striving to win (not winning itself) and praise effort and performance more than results
- 18.10 Consistently display high standards of behaviour
- 18.11 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat all equally
- 18.12 Let the referee handle incidents in a game
- 18.13 Recognise the value and importance of coaches and club officials who are all volunteers
- 18.14 Help when asked by coaches and officials
- 18.15 Be in attendance at training sessions and matches up to the U10 age group. Parents may operate a buddy system for older players but at least one adult should be present and responsible for no more than 3 players. If a parent is not present, the coach must have a contact number. Where players are to be collected, a designated person should be there 10 minutes before the end of training or matches.
- 18.16 Complete player registrations as required and pay the Club subscriptions on time
- 18.17 Support and be positive to all players and coaches regardless of the results
- 18.18 Be welcoming and friendly to all visiting teams, coaches and their supporters - without them, there would be no match

Parents and guardians should not :

- 18.19 Coach players at training or during a game
- 18.20 Use foul or abusive language towards officials, coaches, fellow members, opponents or supporters
- 18.21 Become involved in disputes with officials, other team players or supporters
- 18.22 Use physical violence or threaten anyone
- 18.23 Applaud sending-offs or the errors of opponents
- 18.24 Exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
- 18.25 Smoke or take alcohol or any other non-prescribed substance in the presence of young players

## **19 SUPPORTERS**

Supporters are expected to :

- 19.1 Remember that children play soccer to have fun, enjoy the game and develop their skills – they are not mini professionals
- 19.2 Be on their best behaviour and lead by example – the behaviour of a team’s supporters will often be remembered long after the result of the game. Be remembered for the right reasons
- 19.3 Applaud good play, sportsmanship and best effort by both teams
- 19.4 Support and be positive to all players and coaches regardless of the results
- 19.5 Be welcoming and friendly to all visiting teams, coaches and their supporters - without them, there would be no match
- 19.6 Condemn the use of violence in all forms at every opportunity

Supporters should not :

- 19.7 Place excessive pressure on children to perform to unrealistically high expectations
- 19.8 Use foul or abusive language towards officials, coaches, fellow members, opponents or supporters
- 19.9 Become involved in disputes with officials, other team players or supporters
- 19.10 Use physical violence or threaten anyone
- 19.11 Applaud sending-offs or the errors of opponents
- 19.12 Smoke or take alcohol or any other non-prescribed substance in the presence of young players

These types of behaviours will result in the supporter being asked to leave the grounds.

## **20 USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photographs are an important means of capturing a memory or a moment in time. They may also be used to promote the Club and/or its activities and permission/consent to use photographs in this way is contained in the Club membership form. Parents/guardians should notify the Club if they do not wish to allow their child’s image to be recorded or used on the Club website or Facebook page.

- 20.1 All children/players in a photograph must be appropriately dressed
- 20.2 Photography should be focused on an activity or on a group of players rather than on a particular player
- 20.3 Images published should not be accompanied by the full name or personal details of the player/child