



## *Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C.*

# **Code of Practice for Children**

The guidelines in this document are based on the national guidelines as outlined in the following documents.

Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Irish Sports Council, 2000.

Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Dept. of Health & Children 2011

Our Duty to Care, Dept. of Health & Children 2002

Football Association of Ireland Code of Ethics & Best Practice

In Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. we want children to have fun and develop skills in a safe and *Fair Play* environment where standards of behaviour are just as important as winning. We recognise that competition and winning is an important goal, but winning at all costs does not meet the needs of young players.

**Children in Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. are entitled to:**

- Be safe.
- Have fun and enjoy soccer.
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.
- Participate in soccer on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability and stage of development.
- Make a complaint in an appropriate way and have it dealt with through a proper and effective complaints procedure (see contact details for Child Protection Officers overleaf).
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Be listened to and to be believed.

**All children/young players should:**

- Attend training/matches regularly, and arrive on time.
- Wear shin guards to each training session and match.
- Inform the coach in advance if it is necessary to miss a match.
- Make each training session a challenge to improve and develop skills.
- Work towards good behaviour, sportsmanship and teamwork; remember behaviour is as important as performance.
- Respect the coaches and fellow players at all times.
- Respect the referees and opponents during matches.
- Be supportive of all team-mates, especially when things are not going well for them.
- Ensure that they talk to a coach/parent/someone they trust if anyone is causing them harm or distress, or if they are unhappy about something in football training/matches.

Children should also be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat other children, fellow players, coaches and volunteers with the same degree of fairness and respect as they are entitled to themselves.

**In this regard children in Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. should undertake to:**

- Play fairly, do their best and have fun.
- Be on their best behaviour at all times.
- Abide by all club rules.
- Make high standards of *Fair Play* the standard others want to follow.
- 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*".

**Children in Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. should NOT:**

- Cheat
- Use bad language.
- Use racist language or behaviour.

**Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. adopts a zero-tolerance approach to any form of racism.**

- 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 other children or adults.
- Spread rumours.
- Take banned substances.
- Keep secrets about any person who may have caused them harm.
- Behave in any manner that may bring the name of Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. into disrepute.

### **Breaches of the code of practice:**

- If a child is found to be in breach of the rules at a minor level he/she will receive a verbal warning.
- If this behaviour continues a match ban can be imposed and this is at the discretion of the coach.
- If a child uses racist language or engages in violence an automatic 1 match ban will be imposed.
- If a child is found to be in possession of a banned substance they will risk expulsion from Kinnegad Juniors.

Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. are aware that recent research would suggest that increasing numbers of children leave sport between the ages of eight and thirteen. A number of the most common reasons given were that sport was no longer fun, they did not get to play and overemphasis on winning. Therefore we have to make every effort to ensure that we keep a balanced approach to competition, make sure all players get a chance to play and strive to keep the fun in soccer.

### **Making sport fun.**

In promoting “**Sport for Fun**” we in Kinnegad Juniors A.F.C. will insist on:

- Encouraging participation and fun.
- Promoting the development of skills as opposed to winning at all costs.
- Ensure a minimum playing time of 15 minutes per match per player (time may vary according to League Rules).
- Emphasising and praising effort.
- Acting as good role models.
- Insisting on **Fair Play** (we will take off offending players).
- Being realistic with our expectations.
- Being aware of children’s feelings.
- Teaching players to respect different cultures.
- Teaching players that standards of behaviour are just as important as winning.

**Please let a Child Protection Officer know of any problems a child/young player is having:**

## **Child Protection Officer**

**Tracy Meade**

Phone number: 0861551689

E-mail address: [tracymeade@gmail.com](mailto:tracymeade@gmail.com)