THE GRASSROOTS CODE FOR ADULTS IN YOUTH FOOTBALL

Club Name:

# We’re here to enjoy ourselves…win, lose or draw.

**To help make football more enjoyable for all I should:**

* Come to training and matches with a positive attitude and put the well-being of children first.
* Recognise examples of respect, effort and good play, as well as achievement.
* Appreciate grassroots football should be about children playing and having fun, not solely about results.

# We always treat others as we’d like to be treated. To give respect at football I must:

* Always use respectful and positive language and actions.
* Not argue with the referee, coach, and officials, and accept their decisions.
* Avoid coaching from the sidelines as a spectator, recognising this is likely to cause uncertainty and confusion across the team.
* Encourage children to show fair play by shaking hands with opponents and being kind, whether we win or lose.
* Stay in designated spectator or technical areas.
* Tidy up after myself and take care of the facilities we use.

# We embrace our differences, football is a game for everyone. To be inclusive at football I must:

* Show zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.
* Report anything that concerns me via the relevant channel.
* Treat people based on their character, and nothing else.
* Accept that we all bring our own personal perspectives to the game.
* Not exclude anyone because of background or personal characteristics.
* Strive to give fair playing time to all children.

# We’re a team, on and off the pitch. To help us bond as a team I should:

* Remember we are ‘one team’ helping young people enjoy football.
* Encourage players and celebrate their effort.
* Avoid criticising players if they make a mistake.
* Discourage cheating, complaining and time wasting from everyone.
* Accept that my child may not always be able to play in their favourite position, or may need to make a break to give someone else playing time.

# We all have a role in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults. To keep everyone safe I must:

* Accept it is my responsibility to know if my role in football places me in a position of trust.
* Speak to my Club or League Designated Safeguarding Officer if I am unsure whether I am in a position of trust.
* Understand appropriate boundaries must be in place, both online and during face-to-face activity.
* Let a Club Official know if I see anything that looks unsafe.
* Be aware of who the first aiders are, and where the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator is located.
* Keep appropriate boundaries by:
	+ Always putting the well-being of children first.
	+ Being friendly but professional.
	+ Encouraging children to review their own progress.
	+ Raising concerns about a child to the Club Welfare Officer if they display behaviour not usual to them or which causes concern.
* Follow the ‘Physical contact and young people: Guidance for grassroots football’ guidelines. If my role requires physical contact with a child, I will:
	+ Ask the child’s permission and explain the type of, and reason for the physical contact.
	+ Keep physical contact to skill development, first aid, harm prevention or celebration of success or comfort in times of distress.
	+ Ensure another responsible adult is present for the duration.
	+ Remember physical touch should be culturally sensitive to a child.
	+ Not participate in training, warm up or cool down sessions with children (including my own) to protect them from accidental physical harm.

# I understand that my club, League, County FA or The FA may take action, that could include:

If I DON’T

live up to the

Standard

* Giving me a verbal warning.
* Asking me to meet with the Club, League or CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer.
* Asking me to meet with the Club Committee.
* Asking that I complete an FA education course.
* Asking that I leave the match venue.
* Requesting that I do not attend future games.
* Suspending me or removing my Club membership.
* Fining me.
* Fining and/or suspending my Club.

# About Referees, Assistant Referees and Match Officials:

The FA believes that all Match Officials should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any threatening behaviour or physical contact on a Match Official will result in a lengthy exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution.

**SIGNED: DATE:**