



# Youth football clubs

Your guide to The FA's Respect programme



# THANKS DAD

You think you're 'supporting' your son. His team-mates think he's a loser because his Dad mouths off from the sidelines.

**Are you losing it?**

**Respect** 

[TheFA.com/respectguide](http://TheFA.com/respectguide)



**Respect**

## Why football needs Respect

The FA is responding to concern from across the game to tackle unacceptable behaviour in football. The FA is taking action in a variety of ways, and one of the main actions is the **Respect** programme. It is not a short-lived campaign but an ongoing commitment to improve behaviour in football. It won't be solved in the short term as we all have a lot of work to do over the seasons ahead.

One of the main aims of **Respect** is to help recruit and retain enough Referees for the requirements of our game at all levels. We all know that a game without a trained and impartial referee cannot be played properly. In 2008 the number of registered Referees had fallen to an all time low with many referees dropping out, mainly due to the abuse they receive on the pitch and from the sidelines. **Respect** aims to improve the environment of the game and so improve the experience of everyone involved – particularly Referees.

**Respect** needs your club and its players to play its part. Together, we can make a huge difference.



Respect



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Respect

## What is Respect?

**Respect** is the collective responsibility of everyone in football to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place.

It is the behavioural code for football.

**Respect** is a continuous FA programme, not a one-off initiative.

### What do we want to achieve with Respect?

1. There will be a 'step change' in youth football on what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour from parents, spectators and coaches.
2. We will work with coaches to create an enjoyable learning environment for children's football
3. There will be a base of registered referees in England sufficient for the demands of the game at every level.
4. There will be zero tolerance for assaults on referees.
5. There will be an improvement in on-field player discipline, particularly in the area of dissent to referees and in competitions that have an established record of poor discipline.

The most important message of the **Respect** programme is that real and lasting change will come about not through the intervention of the Football Authorities but from everyone in football taking collective responsibility to promote what is good in the game and deal with that which diminishes it.



## How do we achieve Respect?

The **Respect** programme includes four practical steps to improve behaviour:

**Step 1:** Codes of Conduct

**Step 2:** Manage the match day environment

**Step 3:** The captain takes responsibility

**Step 4:** The referee manages the game

**Step 1:**

### Codes of Conduct

Codes of Conduct aren't new and are already in use by some clubs (for example, they are mandatory for Charter Standard Clubs). Some Codes are successful; some are forgotten and simply not acted upon.

**Respect** brings them to life by supporting and strengthening the Codes of Conduct with possible consequences. There is little point in having a set of rules if no action is taken if and when they're broken.

**There are Respect Codes of Conduct for:**

- Young Players
- Adult Players
- Spectators and Parents/Carers
- Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials
- Match Officials

Each Code explains that actions can be taken if the Code is broken. Although the County FA or The FA will deal with cases of reported misconduct, clubs and leagues also have a role to play in dealing with poor behaviour from players, officials or spectators. This can range from education, mentoring, official warnings, suspension or even exclusion from the club/league.

All the **Respect** Codes of Conduct can be downloaded from [www.TheFA.com/Respect](http://www.TheFA.com/Respect)

**Respect** works on placing responsibility on individuals for their actions: *break your Code, and bear the consequences.*

**Club Codes of Conduct:**

Each **Respect** Code of Conduct explains that action can and will be taken if the Code is broken.

Your club has three main responsibilities around the Codes:

1. To ensure everyone within the club (club members), whatever their role, has read, agreed and signed up to their relevant Code – and understands the actions which could be taken if Codes are broken. The inclusion of Codes into the registration process of club members ensures that all playing members can be made aware of their responsibilities at the point of joining the club.
2. To collect and retain the Codes so that they can be referred back to if an individual's behaviour becomes unacceptable
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks 'their' Code.

If your club hasn't used Codes of Conduct before – or has Codes without consequences – this needs discussion, so your members understand how the Codes work and what their responsibilities are.

**Clubs which already have Codes of Conduct:**

If you are an FA Charter Standard Club, and/or you already have your own club Codes of Conduct, it is advised that you adopt the new **Respect** Codes or revise your existing codes to include any elements you may have missed.



**Respect**



### Taking Sanctions

The Codes identify a range of sanctions which can be applied in the event of misconduct or poor behaviour.

Whilst your County FA or The FA will deal with reported misconduct, clubs also have a role to play in educating its membership as to what is – and what isn't – acceptable behaviour and taking action when the Codes are broken. Potential measures that a club can take against its members include;

- Being required to apologise to team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a warning from the coach
- Receive a written warning from the club committee
- Be required to attend a FA education course
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be required to leave the club

It's important for Clubs to be clear about what it expects from its members and to educate people when guidance is required. Should this guidance be disregarded then the management of a Club has the right to implement sanctions against offenders. Such action must:

- Be fair and consistent – treating people in the same way regardless of their position in the club
- Follow a process which allows people to know when they have broken a Code of Conduct and provides them with the opportunity to amend their behaviour and conduct
- Be proportionate to the offence
- Be progressively more serious for repeat offenders

#### Step 2:

#### Managing the match day environment

Sometimes the behaviour of spectators and team officials can have a negative impact on the game itself. **Respect** aims to create a playing environment which is fair, safe and enjoyable. This can be achieved by;

- Clearly identifying to players, spectators and team officials the behaviour that is appropriate. This is why the codes of conduct are important

- If you are the home club there is a value in displaying the club's code of conduct - visible to both home and visiting participants. This could be in the changing room, pavilion or even on a laminated card that can be passed down a line of spectators
- Signage – if the facility allows the display of a **Respect** banner or sign this can establish to all participants a club's commitment to the **Respect** programme.
- The creation of designated areas for spectators is a key element of **Respect** and is a measure largely aimed at youth football where large numbers of spectators can be attracted, some of whom may behave poorly.

**Designated Spectators' Areas** can be marked by an additional line, the use of cones, a roped-off area or use of a temporary spectators' barrier.

The areas literally draw the line which spectators should not cross. Research has shown it to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials.

The ideal arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on the opposite side of the pitch to club officials (manager/coaches etc) for spectators to stand behind. This allows the manager/coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players can better distinguish the advice from their team officials.

The Designated Spectators' Area should start two metres from the touchline on both sides of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. This means no-one should be watching from behind the goals. It is recognised however that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this set up in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

You may prefer an alternative form of marking a Designated Spectators' Area, but you must ensure this is safe for both the spectators and the players. The FA strongly recommends you obtain formal agreement from the facility/pitch provider about which method of marking is most suitable for the pitch, before beginning any work or buying any new equipment.

The safety of the players, officials and spectators is paramount.

To help implement the Designated Spectators' Area, The FA has endorsed a **Respect** Barrier Kit which is available from [www.Touchlinelogos.com](http://www.Touchlinelogos.com)



### Dealing with difficult spectators

Clubs should consider the use of a touchline manager - someone known to club members designated to help maintain a supportive playing environment. A touchline manager could be someone in the club with relevant experience (e.g. the club welfare officer or a police officer or teacher). Ideally the individual should have authority and presence, and the ability to remain calm. The role of the touchline manager is to attempt to nip any behavioural issues in the bud, to be a point of contact during the game for the referee and to remind spectators of their responsibility. It's important that they act quickly and discreetly. Some clubs have equipped touchline managers with a **Respect** bib which has increased their visibility and assisted them when required to intervene. The touchline manager is to assist the smooth running and enjoyment of the game for everyone – not just the home team. They are there to deal with small scale incidents and to reduce and diffuse problems. It is not the role of the touchline manager to replace the referee or the normal league sanctions. They should never place themselves or others in danger.

### The Role of a Touchline Manager

- Be aware - Enjoy the game but monitor the touchline
- Move towards an incident or potential incident
- Observe and analyse – Is this a significant incident likely to escalate or will a quiet reminder sort it out.
- Isolate -ask the person to move away for a chat, remind them that the children are there to have fun.
- Emphasise that the club is committed to creating a environment where people are treated with **Respect** and dignity.
- Let them know that children may be influenced by their behaviour.
- Acknowledge that they may be frustrated by the decisions a coach or referee has made but explain that the person is doing their best (everyone makes mistakes) and that the referee may see things differently from their field of play.
- Explain that abuse directed at players or team officials on either team is unacceptable.
- Refer to the club's Code of Conduct – the spectator may not realise that they have behaved inappropriately.
- Be calm and firm. Be conscious that both the tone of your voice and your body language is assertive but not aggressive

- Explain the **Respect** Code, explain that this behaviour cannot be tolerated, that continued abuse will lead to problems for the club and the players and that the incident will be fully reported to the league and County Football Association.

#### And if this doesn't work.....

- Bring the incident to the attention of the referee
- If the Referee deems it necessary the game will be abandoned and the club will face a full report.
- Remember: if you have done all that you can the League should take this into account

#### Step 3:

#### The captain takes responsibility

Often problems start at matches when individual players are abusive towards the referee, which escalates into several players confronting the referee at the same time – then it's anarchy.

**Respect** aims to stop this cycle before it starts.

The first two seasons of **Respect** have shown one of the most effective measures is for the Referee to work with team captains to manage the behaviour of his/her team mates. Only the captain can challenge decisions made by the referee and the captain needs to manage his/her team to ensure that this is always observed. However, this does not mean the referee will only speak to the captain. Referees remain free to talk to any player if this means they can manage the game better.

#### The advice to captains is;

To promote **Respect** the referee will work with you, as the team captain, to manage the players and the game effectively.

Even if you are some way away from an incident when the referee feels he/she needs you involved in a discussion with a player, the referee will call you over. This will ensure that, as the team captain, you remain the point of contact for the referee.

As a captain, you have no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game, but you do have a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of your team.

In some cases a referee will proceed directly to a caution if he deems an offence to be serious enough, and is not obliged to call a captain forward for every incident – only those that will assist him/her in the management of the game.

The type of behaviour which often gives rise to problems in matches, and where captains and referees need to work together, can be described as 'harassment and challenging behaviour towards the referee'.

Referees will also make use of captains to deal with persistent offending from a team-mate where there is a real possibility of further offending resulting in a caution or a dismissal. Captains will also be called forward where additional support is required to calm a player down who is likely to immediately re-offend.

Here are some examples of each of these types of behaviour

#### **Harassment:**

- Running towards the referee in an aggressive manner.
- Players surrounding the referee to protest a decision.
- Repeatedly asking questions about decisions in an attempt to influence the referee or undermine his/her responsibilities.

#### **Challenging:**

- Passing comment to other players about a referee's decision-making.
- Repeatedly moaning at the referee about decisions.
- Gestures that obviously are made in a derogatory manner, such as a shaking of the head or waving of the hand.

#### **Captains have been asked to:**

- Ensure they wear a captain's armband.
- Ensure all players understand what they can/cannot do in relation to the referee and what is meant by 'unwanted behaviour'. No-one's trying to curb enthusiasm – just instil more discipline. This can only benefit the specific match and football as a whole.
- Ensure vice-captains (who should be appointed one if there isn't one) is aware of these rules, in case captains are unavailable for a game, or have to leave the field.
- Ensure every player in the team has signed the **Respect** Code of Conduct.

#### **Captains in children's football**

- In some case a youth team may not have an individual that is mature enough to take on this enhanced captaincy role. In such cases a common sense approach should be taken which may involve the Referee working with a team manager rather than an on field captain.

#### **Step 4:**

##### **The referee manages the game**

Although much of youth football is refereed by club officials or young referees, these officials can and should operate in the same way as any other qualified referee.

The instructions given to referees in relation to **Respect** are that: 'you are expected to work with the team captains to manage the players and the game effectively. You must control the game by applying the Laws of the Game and deal firmly with any open show of dissent by players'. (e.g. not move away from the incident, but stay and deal with it).

While recognising that players may on occasions make an appeal for a decision (e.g. a throw-in, corner or goal-kick), it is important you distinguish these from an act of dissent which should be punished with a caution.

You should use a stepped approach, where appropriate, to managing players:

1. Quiet word.
2. Free-kick with quiet word.
3. Free-kick with public admonishment (this is the time referees should consider using the captain to emphasise the message).
4. Yellow card.
5. Red card

The stepped approach does not contradict the fact that as the referee, you have the authority within the Laws of the Game to issue disciplinary sanctions without consulting the captain(s), including issuing a yellow or red card where the Laws require it.

If the captain is some distance from an incident, but you feel you need him/her involved in a discussion with a player, you should call the captain over. This will ensure the captain remains your point of contact during the game.

These guidelines are an additional preventative/supportive tool for referees to manage games effectively. The key is for referees to use captains in a more visible way.



Respect

## The first two seasons of Respect

Throughout the first two seasons of **Respect** its impact was monitored. The following are the headline findings:

- Prior to the launch of the **Respect** programme in 2008 the number of affiliated referees had fallen to all time low. In 2010 there were 26,692 registered referees, an increase of 7.4% increase compared to 24,852 for the same period in 2009.
- The number of trainee referees at level 9 is 5598 compared to 4111 in 2009 - an increase of 36.2%.
- The **Respect** programme has made a contribution to creating an environment where referees, feel better supported and are more likely to continue their involvement. In a survey of 3,500 referees in November 2009, 35 % of respondents reported that they were more likely to remain a referee and 39 % reported that they received less abusive behaviour from players as a result of **Respect** programme.
- When the **Respect** programme was launched referees were encouraged to submit '**Respect**' marks after a fixture. In 2009/10 nearly 10,000 reports were entered. Encouragingly the average **Respect** marks (out of a possible 5) ranged from 4.1 to 4.7
- In 2008/09 The FA received reports of 534 referees having been assaulted (ranging from a referee having a card knocked out of their hand to serious assault). In 2009/10 the figures for assaults on a match officials (all categories) show a 13 % decrease from last season (a reduction to 466 cases from 534 cases in 08/09)
- One of the major themes of the **Respect** programme has been its attempt to deal with overtly aggressive coaches and pushy parents in youth football. The **Respect** programme has increased awareness of the problem.
- Over 500 youth leagues have committed themselves to the programme. Despite this work a significant problem still exists with the key finding of the 2010 CFA Online Grass Roots Survey of 12,000 respondents, across all regions and all roles in football identified as: *'the abuse of young players by spectators'*.



- In the professional game player behaviour has improved. Overall in the Premier League, Football League, Football Conference, Isthmian, Northern and Southern Leagues there was a 6 % decline in dissent cautions. Dissent cautions in 10 out of 16 of the senior leagues were down compared to 2008/09 levels.
- There was a 23% reduction in dissent cautions in the Premier League (76 compared to 99).
- Dissent cautions were down by 31% in the Championship (99 compared to 144).
- Dissent cautions were down in the Football League as a whole by 12 % (373 compared to 425).
- There were only two charges of harassment of match official in the PL, FL and Football Conference but mass confrontation charges rose from 4 to 43 charges this season.
- In the amateur game dissent cautions have reduced by 3%, misconduct 3% and dismissals by 2%
- Disappointingly the number of matches abandoned due to misconduct in 2009/10 was 947 an increase of 7 % on the 2008/09 figure
- An online **Respect** module has now become a pre-course requirement for those undertaking the FA Level 1 coaching qualification. Since its introduction in May 2009, nearly 17,000 Coaches have undertaken this module.
- 752 Leagues have signed up for **Respect** (out of 1200) although implementation of the **Respect** measures is at different stages across those leagues.
- 40 % of the 12,000 respondents of the CFA's Grassroots Survey claim that their experience of football has improved with '**Respect**' and that they experienced 66 % less discrimination or touchline abuse.
- Based on the CFA Grassroots survey The **Respect** measures considered to have the most practical value are Referees being encouraged to deal with dissent , use of Codes of Conduct, use of captains to assist on field management and the use of designated spectator areas.

The **Respect** programme is an ongoing commitment by the football authorities to tackle poor behaviour. There is still much work to be done but we will seek to improve this position season on season.





# How to introduce Respect at your club

Fundamentally, we need you to accept and understand the four steps to **Respect** outlined on the previous pages – and then impart them to everyone at your club.

To get everyone on board, we suggest the following actions.

### Attend a league information session

If your league decides to sign-up to **Respect**, your league officials will hold an information session on the programme and the role your club will be expected to play. It's important your club is absolutely clear about what your involvement entails. Your league will hand out **Respect** resources at this session.

### Organise a club **Respect** session and inform your members

We would recommend you organise an information session for your club members, along the lines of the one you will be asked to attend by your league.

Members include:

- Club officials, Coaches, Team Managers and welfare officers
- All players

However it's organised, you need to ensure that all the members of your club read, understand and sign the relevant Codes of Conduct. A **Respect** DVD is also available from the County FA which will assist in explaining the relevance of **Respect** to parents and team officials.

### Communicating the **Respect** message to young players

For under-16 players at your club there is a Code of Conduct for Young Players. This differs from the Adult Players' Code of Conduct in language and tone to ensure it is easy to understand.

If you really want young people to engage fully with the **Respect** programme, here is a suggested way to embed it in their minds. Perhaps you should repeat it before every training session and/or match, and in time, get them to say it together before they go out?

- R**eferee is in charge
- E**ncourage team-mates
- S**hout, but don't criticise
- P**lay fairly
- E**njoy the game
- C**aptain only speaks to the referee
- T**ry whatever the score

Other ways of encouraging good behaviour and **Respect** in young players could include:

- **Respect** posters in the changing rooms and clubhouse - why not get the team to design their own?
- Discuss the **Respect** Comic Strips available to download from [www.TheFA.com/Respect](http://www.TheFA.com/Respect)
- Introduce an award for the '**Respect** Player of the Season' at each age group – ie a fair play award. You could even have a **Respect** Player of the Match each week.
- Introduce an award for the '**Respect** Team of the Season' within the club at the end of the season, ie the team with the best disciplinary record.

Help them understand it's about making everyone responsible for their individual actions and ensuring they not only **Respect** others, but **Respect** the game of football itself.

### Communicate with your spectators

This may not apply at your club, but if your matches attract spectators, they have a key influence on standards of behaviour: their own and others.

It is accepted that spectators are not under a club's direct control, but you and your players have a responsibility to lead by example and set the standards of behaviour you expect from spectators – and then maintain these standards.

So, depending on the size of your club, you may want to include spectators in your club information session(s) or run a specific session for them.

### Ensure your club officials understand **Respect**

Players and spectators will often take their lead from the management of a team. If a manager or coach is bawling at match officials it is likely that players will do so too. Managers and coaches have a responsibility to behave themselves in a way which reflects the **Respect** Codes of Conduct

### Take action to make the **Respect** Codes of Conduct meaningful

Get all club participants – whatever their role – to sign up to a Code of Conduct and then the management of the club should ensure that they are obeyed. In some cases this may mean that additional education or advice is required. For more serious cases a warning may be administered or a temporary withdrawal of club privileges. For serious or persistent cases the club committee may need to consider suspending or even withdrawing an individual's club membership

## Welfare Officers and the Respect programme

Safeguarding children is an integral aspect of the **Respect** programme. It's about raising awareness that bullying, verbal, emotional and physical abuse will not be tolerated in football.

League and Club Welfare Officers play a key role in this safeguarding work. From season 2010/2011 The Football Association requires all leagues and clubs with youth teams to have a named Welfare Officer with an 'accepted' CRB via The FA CRB Unit and have attended The FA Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer workshops.

League and Club Welfare Officers should contact their County Welfare Officer to find out about opportunities for Welfare Officer training and meetings.

**Respect** is all about creating a fun and safe environment, there are specific ways in which League and Club Welfare Officers can assist the programme's implementation.

The **League Welfare Officer** should:

- Promote the **Respect** programme as part of measures to safeguard children in the league.
- Attend the **Respect** club information session run by the league.
- Ensure Club Welfare Officers are familiar with the **Respect** programme.
- Monitor behaviour in the league and feedback to The County FA.
- Ensure the **Respect** Codes of Conduct are distributed and used.
- Encourage Club Welfare Officers to undertake the online FA **Respect** Parents' Guide.

The **Club Welfare Officer** should:

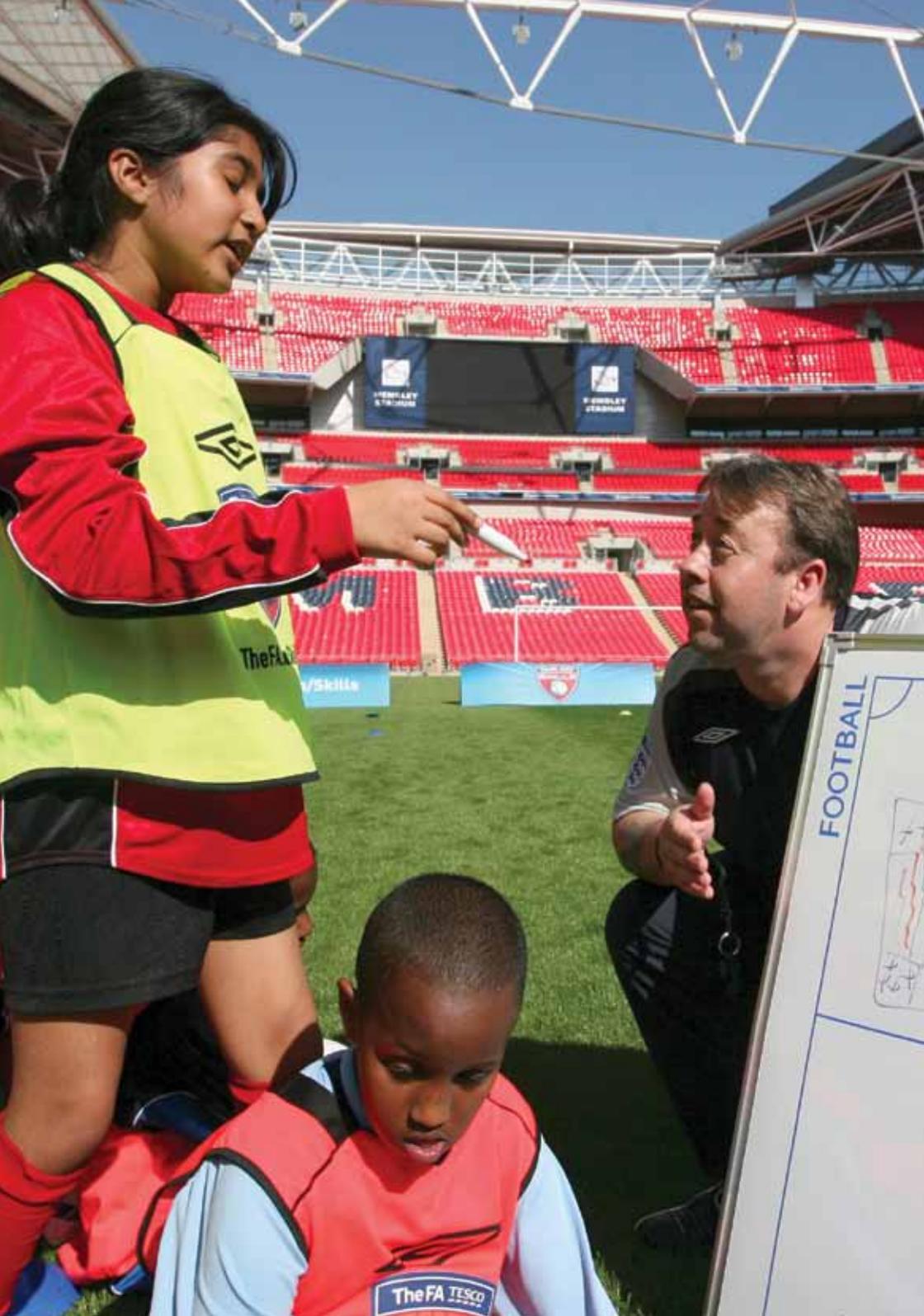
- Promote the **Respect** programme as part of the measures to create positive football experiences within the club.
- Attend the **Respect** information session held by the league and any such sessions held by the club.
- Help people to understand the Codes of Conduct and to keep within the **Respect** Designated Spectators' Area.
- Talk to the League and/or the County FA Welfare Officer if any incidents of bullying, harassment, discrimination or abuse arise in the club.
- Encourage team officials and spectators to undertake the online FA **Respect** Parents' Guide.

For further information on the role of Welfare Officers please go to [www.TheFA.com/FootballSafe](http://www.TheFA.com/FootballSafe)

## Respect Good Practice

There is a growing body of good practice from leagues, clubs and individuals that have led the way in tackling poor behaviour and promoting **Respect** in the game. In May 2010 at the FA Cup Final Prince William presented the first ever **Respect** and Fair Play awards to those that are making a difference. The winners were;

Name of Organisation / Individual	Category
Arsenal	Barclays Premier League Fair Play Award
Doncaster Rovers	FL Fair Play Award Championship
Swindon Town	FL Fair Play Award League 1
Rochdale	FL Fair Play Award League 2
Northern Premier League	National League System League Steps 1 to 4
The Hellenic Football League	National League System League Steps 5 to 7
Garforth Town Football Club	National League System Club Steps 1 to 4
East Riding County Women's League	Women's Pyramid League
Sheppey Sunday league	Grassroots Adult League
East Berkshire Youth Football League	Grassroots Youth League or Organisation
North Wilts Youth & Minor League	Grassroots Youth League or Organisation
Leamington Hibernian Football Club	Grassroots Club
Malcolm Lee ( Don't X the Line)	Bobby Moore Award



Respect Code of Conduct



**Respect**



## Young Players

The work of the award winners can be viewed at [www.TheFA.com/Respect](http://www.TheFA.com/Respect)

The **Respect** Awards will be staged once again in 2011 with application forms available from January 2011 from the FA and County Football Associations.

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

As a player, you have a big part to play. That's why The FA is asking every player to follow a

### **Respect Code of Conduct.**

#### When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- **Respect** my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my 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 my coach/team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club



## Spectators and parents/carers

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

#### I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club

#### In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game

This 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.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect Code of Conduct** for spectators and parents/carers at all times

#### I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- 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



## Match Officials

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

**I may be:**

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA 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

**In addition:**

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect Code of Conduct** for match officials at all time.

**I will:**

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Support my match official colleagues at all times
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing **Respect** to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play



## Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my County FA or The FA:

**I may be:**

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Committee

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In the FA's survey of 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sideline.

Play your part and observe the Football Association's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

**On and off the field, I will:**

- 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

**When working with players, I will:**

- 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



Respect



**Respect**





Lose Respect  
Lose the game



Respect



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**Respect**