



Essex Walking Football League

Fair Play Charter

INTRODUCTION

Conduct according to the spirit of Fair Play is essential for the successful promotion and development of and involvement in sport. The objective of Fair Play is to foster a sporting spirit, as well as the sporting behaviour of all League, Club and Team Officials, players and supporters, thereby increasing the enjoyment of all those involved in the game.

In order that clubs may address the behaviour of supporters in a meaningful way, consideration must be given to the actions and activities of four integral parts of those associated with the league, its clubs and teams; its League, Club and Team Officials, club players and club officials.

The League has therefore introduced this Fair Play Charter, which should be abided by at all times.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS

This code applies to all League, Club and Team officials, hereafter called 'all'.

All officials are key to the establishment of ethics in walking football. Their concept of ethics and their attitude directly affects the behaviour of players under their supervision. All officials are, therefore expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

All officials have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for all officials. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for all officials to disassociate themselves from a "win-at-all-costs" attitude.

Increased responsibility is requested from all officials involved in coaching. The health, safety and welfare of all players are a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of all officials.

- All officials must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport of walking football.
- All officials must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- All officials must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.

- All officials must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- All officials must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- All officials must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
- All officials should, at the outset, clarify with the players exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from all officials.
- All officials must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other Club and Team Officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
- All officials must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant league or cup competition rules and regulations.
- All officials must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- All officials must not use or tolerate inappropriate language.
- All officials must promote and encourage, particularly to players, the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diet.
- All officials must provide guidance and support to players on the dangers of drug abuse.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game. But not winning at any cost – ‘Fair Play’ and respect for all others in the game is fundamentally important. This Code focuses on players involved in walking football. However, the code calls for all players to disassociate themselves from a "win-at-all-costs" attitude.

Obligations towards the game

A player should:

- Make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, technique, tactics and stamina.
- Make every effort to lead a healthy lifestyle which will include an appropriate diet and an avoidance of recreational or performance enhancing drugs.

- Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game, even if their team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
- Set a positive example for others, particularly other players and supporters.
- Avoid all forms of gamesmanship and time-wasting.
- Always have regard for the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- Not use inappropriate language.

Obligations towards one's own team

A player should:

- Make every effort consistent with Fair Play and the Laws of the Game to help their own team win.
- Resist any influence that might, or might be seen to, bring into question their commitment to the team winning.

Respect for the Laws of the Game and competition rules

A player should:

- Know and abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the game, and the competition rules.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat with an equal measure of dignity.
- Resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

Respect towards Opponents

A player should:

- Treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
- Safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents.

Respect towards the Match Officials

A player should:

- Accept the decision of the Match Official without protest.
- Avoid words or actions that may mislead a Match Official.
- Show due respect towards Match Officials.

Respect towards Team Officials

A player should:

- Abide by the instructions of their Coach and Team Officials, provided they do not contradict the spirit of this Code.
- Show due respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition.

Obligations towards the Supporters

A player should:

- Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TEAM OFFICIALS

This Code applies to all League, Club and Team officials, hereafter 'all' (although some items may not apply to 'all' officials).

Obligations towards the Game

All officials should:

- Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- Promote and develop their own team having regard to the interest of the Players, Supporters and reputation of the national game.
- Share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interest of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests.
- Avoid all forms of gamesmanship.
- Show due respect to Match Officials and others involved in the game.
- Always have regard for the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- Not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

Obligations towards the Team

The team official should:

- Make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the club/team, and to obtain the best results for the team, using all permitted means.
- Give priority to the interests of the team over individual interests.
- Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques.
- Promote ethical principles.
- Show due respect for the interests of the players, Club and Team Officials and officials, their own club/team and others.

Obligations towards the Supporters

The team official should:

- Show due respect for the interests of supporters.

Respect towards the Match Officials

All officials should:

- Accept the decisions of the Match Official without protest.
- Avoid words or actions that may mislead a Match Official.
- Show due respect towards Match Officials.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SUPPORTERS

Supporters are considered to be an organic component of a football game. The support of fans may contribute to the success of the team. Supporters are not expected to watch the game in silence. Encouragement of teams by shouting, non-abusive singing, etc. may have a positive influence on the atmosphere in accordance with the spirit of Fair Play.

Supporters are, however, expected to respect the opponents and the referee. They should appreciate the performance of the opposition even if they emerge as winners. They should in no way intimidate or frighten opponents, the referee or opposing supporters.