



# Clevedon Football Club Child Protection Policy

PLEASE NOTE: Coaches may be asked to undertake Police Vetting Procedures

Clevedon Football Club (“CFC”) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and it is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We strive to ensure a child’s protection with respect to best practice, policy, and procedures.

The key principles of CFC’s Child Protection policy are that;

- (a) The child’s welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- (b) All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse, regardless of age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation
- (c) All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- (d) Working in partnership with other organizations, children/young people, and their parents/caregivers is essential

We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. CFC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

CFC has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual, or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that child protection applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are volunteers, match officials, club helpers, coaches, club officials, and medical staff.

CFC endorses and adopts best practice for child protection, and for recruiting volunteers we may:

- (a) Develop a role profile

- (b) Request identification documents
- (c) As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant, and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- (d) Request and follow up with 2 references before appointing
- (e) Require a recognised Police Check where appropriate

All current CFC members with direct access to children and young people may be required to complete a recognised Police Check. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved, or who has approached us to become part of the Club, guidance will be sought from the appropriate sources. It is noted and accepted that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people. It is accepted that CFC aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people, and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children, and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can freely contact a member of the CFC Committee.

CFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO). This is the first point of contact for all club members and parents/guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the appropriate authorities. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse among club members

We acknowledge bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players and parents/guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO or a member of the CFC Committee.

Codes of conduct for players, parents, spectators, officials, and coaches have been implemented by CFC. To validate these codes of conduct, the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledge the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented in more serious circumstances.

The club has also requested that parents and players communicate with the club around any school or family commitments that may clash with their player's footballing sessions or games, which they will be allowed to partake in, without any repercussions to their football journey.



# Clevedon Football Club

## Codes of Conduct

Clevedon Football Club (“CFC”) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and spectators associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, all those associated with CFC should comply with these Codes of Conduct.

### **Coach’s/Manager’s Code of Conduct**

Be reasonable in your demands on young players’ time, energy and enthusiasm.

- Teach your players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
- Whenever possible, group players according to age, height, skills and physical maturity.
- The scheduling and length of practice times and competition should take into consideration the maturity level of players.
- Avoid over-playing the talented players. The “just-average” players need, and deserve, equal time.
- Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation. Never ridicule children for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Be aware of the role of the coach as an educator. As well as imparting knowledge and skills, promote desirable personal and social behaviors.
- Seek to keep abreast of changes in the sport; ensure that the information used is up to date, appropriate to the needs of players and takes account of the principles of growth and development of children. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
- Provide feedback to players and other participants in a manner sensitive to their needs. Avoid overly negative feedback.
- Recognise players’ rights to consult with other coaches and advisers. Cooperate fully with other specialists (for example, sports scientists, doctors and physiotherapists) and follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence play.

- Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting activities, regardless of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socio-economic status and other conditions.
- Encourage and facilitate players' independence and responsibility for their own behavior, performance, decisions and actions.
- Involve the players in decisions that affect them.
- Ensure any physical contact with players is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development. Avoid situations with your players that could be construed as compromising.
- Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your players
- Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationship and avoid any sexual intimacy with players that could develop as a result

## **Participant's Code of Conduct**

- Play for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play by the rules.
- Be a good sport. Acknowledge all good plays whether they are from your team, the other team or another player.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your coach or manager approach the referee during a break or after the game in an appropriate manner.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in Football.
- Work equally hard for yourself and for your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Be prepared to lose sometimes. Everyone wins and loses at some time. Be a fair winner and good loser.

## **Parent's Code of Conduct**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
- Encourage children to participate if they are interested. If they are not, don't force them. Remember children are involved in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Focus on playing the game, reducing the emphasis on winning.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results. Applaud good play by all teams.
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons Under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them.

- Never ridicule or yell at your child and other children for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Accept decisions of all officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability. Do not raise issues of disagreement publicly.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities and avoid use of derogatory language based on gender, race or impairment.
- Encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own performance and behavior.
- Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behavior

## **Spectator's Code of Conduct**

- Remember children play sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators. They are not miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performances from each team. Congratulate all players regardless of the outcome.
- Respect the referee's decision. If there is disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to query the decision.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during competition. Be positive.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents, without them, there would be no game.
- Encourage players to obey the rules and decisions of officials.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

## **Official's Code of Conduct**

- Interpret rules and regulations to match the skill level and the needs of participants.
- Compliment both teams on their efforts. Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Condemn the deliberate foul as being unsportsmanlike, and promote fair play and appropriate sporting behavior.
- Use common sense to ensure that the "spirit of the game" for children is not lost by overcalling violations.
- Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the court your behavior is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Help the education process in the game. Referees can help players learn to play the game well by ensuring rule infractions are understood, and by encouraging fair play.
- Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.

**Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behavior**