

PAYFC Code of Conduct for Club & Coaches/Helpers

The Scottish Football Association is justifiably proud of the long history that the game has played in this country. The past 130 years have witnessed significant achievements and created lifelong memories for hundreds of thousands of people. To ensure that Scottish Football plays a significant part of our future for the next 130 years we need to be smarter about the way we preserve the traditions and values of our game.

One of the critical components of our game is the passion that people show for the team and club that they support. Whilst this passion is usually harnessed and used to support our game, it sometimes can boil over to create negative situations. We must all work together in the attempt to eliminate this negative passion. Codes of Conduct are an integral component of footballing activities and the following codes as implemented by Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club compliment the good work of the many football bodies in Scotland.

All Members of Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club must adopt member specific codes and the SFA encourages members to be vigilant in enforcing such codes whether via support for those who constantly abide by the codes and/or penalties for those who fail to act in accordance with the codes.

Note that our Code of Conduct supports our club's constitution and may be used to replace what some clubs refer to as club rules. Fair Play must be fundamental to the aims and objectives of our club, where it is crucial to ensure that all members, officials and volunteers abide by the rules, respect everyone and maintain high standards of sportsmanship at all times.

In ensuring that all members of our club are aware of the Codes of Conduct the club will promote the Codes by including them on the club web-site, in club handbooks, welcome packs and newsletters where appropriate. The club has also produced separate codes of conduct for different groups within our club. The groups covered are (a) coaches, (b) players, (c) parents & spectators and (d) officials & volunteers.

Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club values the role of sport and its contribution to overall human development by providing good quality footballing opportunities in a safe and positive environment. Our club promotes personal, professional, and social wellbeing through footballing experiences, regardless of an individual's socio-economic status, age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. Our Codes of Conduct set minimum standards of best practice for everyone associated with the club, coaches, players, parents/carers and volunteers. We must all aim to improve standards and protect the welfare and well being of everyone involved in our club, in particular young footballers and those who are vulnerable. We must all strive to embody values, virtues and standards of excellence appropriate to our club setting. Ultimately, we must actively pursue our goals, realising the importance of our own, and our fellow participant's commitment to uphold ethical duties and social responsibilities to others.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions have ethical implications. Coaches are key to the establishment of ethics in football. Their concept of ethics and their attitude directly effects the behaviour of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

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

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

Increased responsibility is required from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of the club, coach or parent.

Code of Conduct:

1. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
2. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
3. Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
4. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
5. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
6. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
7. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
8. Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and where appropriate, parent) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
9. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interest of the player.
10. Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (eg fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
11. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
12. Coaches must not use or tolerate inappropriate language.