



Respect and Leagues

Your guide to The FA's Respect programme

Who will you be today?



Respect



Show some Respect

Thousands of referees drop out of the game every season due to abuse.

TheFA.com/Respect

Respect



Why football needs Respect

The FA is responding to concern from grassroots football to tackle unacceptable behaviour in football.

The plea was contained in the biggest survey yet undertaken of the grassroots game in England. This pinpointed eradicating unacceptable behaviour as the No.1 priority. It was an opinion shared by everyone in the game – players, league and club officials, referees and spectators.

The FA is responding 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 tackled in one or two seasons as we all have a lot of work to do over the years ahead.

One of the main aims of Respect is to tackle the mass drop-out of referees from football due to abuse. Thousands of referees drop out of the game every season, mainly due to the abuse they receive on the pitch and from the sidelines. The number of match officials in 2008 hit its lowest-ever level.

Without referees the game simply cannot be played properly.

Sadly, the following is a reflection of the current grassroots game:

- 98% of referees have been verbally abused and 27% have been physically abused. In season 2008-09 over 500 referees were assaulted – 100 of them seriously. This must come to an end.
- Thousands of grassroots matches are played without a qualified match official.
- In 2007-08, 846 grassroots matches were abandoned due to unacceptable behaviour from players and/or spectators.

Specifically in youth football:

- Parents and coaches want role models in the elite game to provide a positive example for young players.
- The No.2 priority from grassroots football is tackling the 'pushy parent' placing too much pressure on their child and their child's team from the sidelines.

Of course your league may not have experienced these issues, but nationally it is a problem. Given we all love the game, we should all want to take behaviour standards to a new level.

Respect needs your league, its member clubs and their players/spectators to play their part. Together, we can make a huge difference.



Respect



Respect

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What is Respect?

Respect is the collective responsibility of everyone involved in football, at all levels, 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 base of registered referees in England sufficient for the demands of the game at every level.
2. There will be zero tolerance for assaults on referees.
3. 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.
4. There will be a 'step change' in youth football on what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour from parents and spectators.
5. We will work with coaches to create an enjoyable learning environment for children's football.



How do we achieve Respect?

For leagues and clubs, the Respect programme includes four practical steps to improve behaviour – on the pitch and on the sidelines – in and at matches throughout the country:

- Step 1:** Codes of Conduct
- Step 2:** Designated Spectators' Area
- Step 3:** The captain takes responsibility
- Step 4:** The referee manages the game.

All these steps are covered in more detail later in this document.





How to introduce Respect into your league

Fundamentally, we need you to accept and understand the four steps of Respect – and then impart them to your clubs, so in turn they convey them to their players, particularly team captains.

All four steps are covered in detail later in this document.

To get all your clubs on board, we suggest the following actions:

One Host an information session(s) for clubs

Before introducing the Respect programme, you will need to hold one or more club information sessions, where you can explain Respect and the role clubs are expected to play.

The FA will provide you with the required number of club resources to distribute.

Through the clubs, captains will be expected to be briefed on the 'only captains should speak to the referee' concept, so if you do hold a meeting at one club, please encourage individual team captains to be present to save time.

It's vital that through you, clubs are absolutely clear about what their involvement entails.

Overall, the key points to convey to clubs at the information session(s) are:

- Why we need Respect
- The four steps to Respect
- Agreeing the actions a club can take – and those they should refer to the league or County FA.

If you run a youth league, then ideally your County FA Welfare Officer and your own League Welfare Officer should be present at your club information session(s), so they can explain how best to get the Respect message across to younger players.

Clubs' own Welfare Officers should be invited. The role of Welfare Officers is covered later in this document.

For youth leagues the information session is a good opportunity to discuss how your member teams want to demarcate the Designated Spectators' Area. Do they want to use The FA-endorsed spectator barriers and should you purchase these as a league?

Once you have held this session and the clubs are clear, you are ready to kick-off the Respect programme in your league.

Two Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

There will undoubtedly be teething problems with some aspects of the Respect programme, and it will refined over time. But we really need your help and feedback to make improvements.

If your league already uses The FA's Full-Time league administration system, you will be contacted with details of monitoring how well the Respect steps are working in practice.

Referees appointed to your league will also be asked to give feedback on behaviour to help us monitor whether Respect is making a positive difference and what specific aspects are working.

If your league does not currently use 'FULL-TIME', we encourage you to come on board. It's free and enables league secretaries to create league and cup competitions in seconds, using wizard-based technology, and guides you through the entire process of league set-up, fixture scheduling and inputting player details.

In turn, club secretaries, managers and players can view league tables, fixture results and a range of player statistics. It dramatically reduces the workload of league secretaries and updates tables and fixtures in seconds.

Leagues also have a role in overseeing the behaviour of their participating clubs. The use of league observers at games can act as a significant deterrent to those with a poor disciplinary record and provide important evidence to the CFA in cases of misconduct.

To see how 'FULL-TIME' works, visit TheFA.com/FULL-TIME.

Three Promoting education

Central to The FA's commitment to the Respect programme is the need to build upon the physical measures – such as the Codes of Conduct and Designated Spectators' Area – with an education programme. For instance The FA's Respect Parents Guide is now available free of charge online.

For more information on the educational services available go to www.TheFA.com/Respect or call the FA Learning hotline on 0870 850 0424.

Four
Imposing sanctions

As you'll see later, the Respect Codes of Conduct identify a range of measures which can be applied in the event of misconduct or poor behaviour.

Whilst your County FA or The FA will deal with reported misconduct, leagues and their member clubs also have a role to play in educating everyone as to what is – and what isn't – acceptable behaviour, and taking action when the Codes are broken.

It's important for your member clubs to be clear about what it should expect 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 should:

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

Independently, your County FA Referee Development Officer (RDO) will be delivering a training programme for County referees about their duties and responsibilities under the Respect programme. Some leagues have insisted that all Referees officiating in league games must have undertaken Respect training.

The main elements of what referees will be told is covered later in this document.

If you have any questions on any of the above, please contact your County FA's Respect Lead Officer who has been fully briefed on every aspect of the Respect programme.

Five
Referring misconduct cases to your County FA

Leagues can best support the implementation of Respect by ensuring that all cases of misconduct are referred to the County FA for them to deal with in a fair and consistent manner with procedures that apply across all of football.

There is sometimes a misapprehension that the County FA can only take into account the report of a Referee but this is not the case as a submission by any participant (including a League Official) can also be accepted as the basis to progress disciplinary action against a club or individual.

Changes to The FA Standard Code in 2008-09 reaffirmed that the responsibility to progress disciplinary action rest with The Football Association and/or County Football Association and this applies across the game at all levels.

However this does not mean that leagues do not have a role to play in ensuring appropriate and proportionate action is taken against teams and individuals that are poorly disciplined. In such circumstances leagues must ensure that they collate evidence of poor behaviour that has been sent to them and pass this onto the appropriate County FA.

In serious cases of misconduct there is an assurance that the County FA will consider the representations of the League promptly.

Leagues also have a role to play in highlighting teams that have a good record of behaviour. Many leagues operate marking systems for their clubs rewarding those with the best records with cash or equipment prizes.

The first season of Respect

Throughout the first season of Respect (2008-09), its impact was monitored. Below are the headline findings:

- In the professional game player behaviour has improved. There have been 44% fewer cases of mass confrontation and a 50% decline in cases of reported harassment of referees. Referees report an improved relationship with players but feel that some managers could set a better example to players and spectators.
- There has been an increase in the volume of dissent cautions in all leagues apart from the Premier League. The Professional Game Match Officials believe this to be a result of more referees dealing with on-field dissent, instead of tolerating it, as in previous seasons.
- The use of a team captains to assist the referee to manage player behaviour is considered to be of value.
- Compared to the same period for season 2007-08 there has been an 8% rise in referee numbers. There are 53% more student referees (Level 9) in training and a 3% increase in Levels 1 – 8 trainees.
- The FA is ahead of its recruitment targets for referees and currently has nearly 26,000 registered referees.
- The number of serious assaults on referees declined by 10% in 2008-09 but disappointingly over 500 referees still reported being subject to physical abuse.
- In the amateur game, cautions for dissent have risen by 3% but there has been a decline in charges for misconduct and the number of dismissals.
- The FA had a considerable impact in youth football with the promotion of adverts and educational courses dealing with the problem of abusive touchline parents. This will continue to be a focus for the work of The FA.
- The use of a Designated Spectators' Area marked by barriers, a painted line or cones is an effective way of improving spectator barriers in youth football.
- The vast majority of those involved in football agree that the Respect programme is definitely needed. It has to be a long-term programme that requires constant reinforcement and reinvention.

The Respect programme is an ongoing commitment by the football authorities to tackle poor behaviour and we will seek to improve this position season on season.



The four steps to Respect

Step one: Codes of Conduct

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

Respect brings them to life.

How? 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.

For further guidance on these specific actions speak directly to your league or County FA.

All the Respect Codes of Conduct can be downloaded from www.TheFA.com/Respect

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

Codes of Conduct:

Your member clubs' responsibilities:

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

Your member clubs have 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.
2. To collect and retain the signed agreement forms at the foot of each Code.
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks 'their' Code.

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

Clubs which already have Codes of Conduct:

If your league contains FA Charter Standard Club(s), and/or some clubs already have their own club Codes of Conduct, you should advise them to adopt the new Respect Codes or revise their existing codes to include any elements they may have missed.

You should suggest to clubs that they should display the Respect Codes of Conduct in dressing rooms, pavilions and club houses and where appropriate, displaying the Spectator Code publicly or handing it down the sidelines.

It's important to ensure that through your members clubs, their own members (players, coaches, club officials etc) understand and appreciate what can happen if Codes are broken. That way, there should be no subsequent debate because they didn't understand the consequences of breaking a Code.



Respect

Step two:

Designated Spectators' Areas

The creation of designated areas for spectators is a key element of Respect but is a measure largely aimed at youth football where large numbers of spectators can be attracted, some of whom may behave poorly.

If your games in an open-age league attract touchline supporters, then the following detail on the introduction of a Designated Spectators' Area will be of interest. However, if your games are watched by very few people, you may be better focusing your attention on the other Respect measures.

In youth football, the creation of designated areas for spectators is a key element. This area 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 parents and spectators should not cross and research has shown it to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials.

If using the Respect barriers endorsed by The FA the ideal arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on one side of the pitch for fans and parents/carers from both sides to stand behind.

This allows the coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players get instructions from just one side of the pitch.

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.respectzone.com and comprises:

- 120 metres of specialised Respect-branded tape (2 x 60 metres lengths)
- A complete set of safety poles
- A simple-to-use and effective reeling system
- Assembly kit comprising of mallet, securing pegs and instructions
- Lightweight carry bag.

The Spectators' Area should start two metres from the touchline and should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised however that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

Although The FA recommends the use of Designated Spectators' Areas as best practice, youth leagues can themselves introduce a requirement for the marking and use of Designated Spectators' Areas at club venues within their League rules - although the actual specification of the areas should be determined by local arrangements.

Should a club fail to make acceptable arrangements for a Designated Spectators' Area, a League may consider issuing a sanction against them. This should be fair and proportionate - perhaps starting with a warning by the League. The absence of a Designated Spectators' Area should not result in the cancellation or abandonment of a game.



Respect

Step three:

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. Only the captain can challenge decisions made by the referee and the captain needs to manage his/her team to ensure this is always observed.

The advice to captains is:

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.

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.

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'.

Here are some examples of each type of behaviour, which are also contained in the captain's leaflet:

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 Respect captain's armband. These will be provided by your league to your club.
- Together with the opposition captain, make themselves known to the referee before the game. He/she will ask if the captains if they are clear about your responsibilities.

- 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 the vice-captain (who should be appointed one if there isn't one) is aware of these rules, in case the captain is unavailable for a game, or has to leave the pitch.
- Ensure every player in the team has signed the Respect Code of Conduct.
- Visit www.TheFA.com/Respect for further updates and tips.

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 four:

The referee manages the game

There is a separate Respect information Guide for referees, which incorporates the following main information in relation to the above:

As the referee, 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. Free-kick.
2. Free-kick with quiet word.
3. Free-kick with public admonishment (this is the time referees should consider using the captain to visibly get the message across).
4. Yellow card.

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

Even 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

Welfare Officers and the Respect programme

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

League and Club Welfare Officers play a key role in this Safeguarding work, and here are details on how they have been introduced by The Football Association.

From season 2008-09:

All leagues and clubs with youth teams, must have appointed a named Welfare Officer, who has an 'accepted' or as a minimum an 'in progress' enhanced CRB check via The FA CRB Unit.

From season 2009-10:

All leagues and clubs with youth teams, must have appointed a named Welfare Officer, who has an 'accepted' CRB check via The FA CRB Unit and who has completed The FA Safeguarding Children Workshop.

From season 2010-11:

All leagues and clubs with youth teams must have a named Welfare Officer, who has an 'accepted' CRB check via The FA CRB Unit and who has completed The FA Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer Workshop.

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

As 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 FA.
- Ensure the Respect Codes of Conduct are distributed and used.

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 County FA Welfare Officer if any incidents of bullying, harassment, discrimination or abuse arise in the club.

For further information on the role of Welfare Officers please go to www.TheFA.com/footballsafe



Respect



Respect Codes of Conduct



Respect

[TheFA.com/Respect](https://www.thefa.com/Respect)



Young Players

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.

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.



Spectators and parents/carers

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 players 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.

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
- Be required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Be required to meet with the club committee
- Be obliged to undertake an FA education course
- Be obliged to leave the match venue by the club
- Be requested by the club not to attend future games
- Be suspended or have my club membership removed
- Be 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.



Match Officials

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
- 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 club, 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.



Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

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 FA'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.

On and off the field, 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

- Ensure all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

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 meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach
- Required to attend a FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club.

In addition:

- My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn.



Adult Players

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

Players tell us they want a referee for every match, yet 7,000 match officials drop out each season because of the abuse and intimidation they receive on and off the pitch.

Respect your referee today and you may just get one for every match this season.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect Code of Conduct** for players at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere to the Laws of The Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote Fair Play
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manager with respect
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Win or lose with dignity. Shake hands with the opposing team and the referee at the end of every game.

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 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 an FA education course
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined
- Be required to leave the club.

In addition:

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





Lose Respect
Lose the game

NO

Respect
Referee
Game

One match in three is played without a referee because of abuse from players.

**Isn't it time to show
some Respect?**



TheFA.com/Respect



Respect

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