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FC ABBEY MEADS

Club Code of Conduct



Title	FC Abbey Meads Club Code of Conduct
Author (s)	Peter Beasley
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Application	To all Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents and volunteers involved in any capacity with FC Abbey Meads

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Coaches Code of Conduct for Football

Community

Football, at all levels, is a vital part of a community. Football will take into account community feeling when making decisions.

Equality

Football is opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent it, in whatever form, from being expressed.

Participants

Football recognises the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who play, those who coach or help in any way, and those who officiate, as well as administrators and supporters. Football is committed to appropriate consultation.

Young People and Children

Football acknowledges the extent of its influence over young people and pledges to set a positive example.

Propriety

Football acknowledges that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative behaviour within the game and will not tolerate corruption or improper practices.

Trust and Respect

Football will uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organisations.

Violence

Football rejects the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game.

Fairness

Football is committed to fairness in its dealings with all involved in the game.

Integrity and Fair Play

Football is committed to the principle of playing to win consistent with Fair Play.

Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers/Supporters

FC Abbey Meads expect all parents/carers/supporters to comply with the following code of conduct –

FC Abbey Meads recognises that Parents / Carers / supporters have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. The following Code of Conduct, which conforms to FA standard and that of the FA Respect Programme, will apply to any Parent or Spectator in attendance at League organised football matches at all times. We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. Play your part and observe The Clubs and League's Code of Conduct and that of the FA's Respect Programme for Parents, Carers and Spectator.

All children play football because they first and foremost love the game, it's fun. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within our club, it is important to reinforce to all parents and spectators that positive encouragement will contribute to;

- Children enjoying football.
- A sense of personal achievement.
- Self-esteem.
- Improving the child's skills and techniques.

Furthermore, a parent's, carer's or spectator's expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards;

- Other players.
- Officials.
- Managers.
- Spectators.

We expect that all parents, carers and spectators within our club are always positive and encouraging towards all of the children, not just their own.

We will encourage parents, carers and spectators to;

- Applaud the opposition as well as your own team.
- Avoid coaching the child during the game.
- Not to shout and scream.
- Respect the referee's decision.
- Give attention to each of the children involved in football not just the most talented.

Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football encourage players to FC Abbey Meads, play according to the rules of the game and to adhere to a respect decision given by match officials.

- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul and/or abusive language and not harass fellow spectators, coaches, players and match officials and condemn the use of violent behaviour at all times.
- Support all initiatives to remove verbal and physical abuse from the game Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, ability, religion or belief, nationality, ethnic origin or colour.
- Never engage in, or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

We would also like to ensure that parents/carers/spectators within our club agree and adhere to this Code of Conduct and apply it at all times during training sessions and on match days before, during and after the match.

The Club has a duty of care to report any breach of this Code of Conduct to the appropriate body or authority.

A copy of our Club Code of Conduct and Child Safeguarding Policies, can be obtained from any club official. For the avoidance of doubt, breaches of the Code of Conduct will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Verbal or physical abuse of another person
2. Harassment of individuals or a group
3. Inappropriate behaviour or questioning of Referee decisions or actions
4. Ridicule, baiting or uttering obscenities
5. Engaging in behaviour that is not respectful of others

Code of Conduct for Coaches

All FC Abbey Meads Coaches are expected to comply with the F.A. coach's association Code of Conduct as set out below –

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 for 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, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
10. Coaches 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 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.

Code of Conduct for Players

FC Abbey Meads expects all players to comply with the following code of conduct:

Obligations towards the Game A Player Should;

- Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- Avoid all forms of negative behaviour.
- Do not use offensive 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 his own team win.

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, equally.

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 which may mislead a Match Official.
- Show 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 respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition.

Obligations towards the Supporters A Player Should;

- Show respect to the interests of supporters

Code of Conduct for Team Officials

FC Abbey Meads expect all team officials to comply with the following code of conduct

Obligations towards the Game, The Team Official Should;

- Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- Promote and develop his own team having regard to the interest of the players, Supporters and reputation of the 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 negative on pitch behaviour.
- 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 respect for the interests of the players, coaches 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 the Team Official Should;

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

Anti-Discrimination & Equal Opportunities Policy

The following policy is recommended by the F.A. and is endorsed by the club: -

Anti-Discrimination

- FC Abbey Meads is responsible for setting standards and values to apply at every level throughout the club.
- Football belongs to and should be enjoyed by everyone, equally. Our commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.
- Equality of opportunity at FC Abbey Meads means that in all our activities we will not discriminate or in any way treat anyone less favourably, on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.

This includes:

- The advertisement for volunteers.
 - The selection of candidates for volunteers.
 - Courses.
 - External coaching and education activities and awards.
 - Football development activities.
 - Selection for teams.
 - Appointments to honorary positions.
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- FC Abbey Meads will not tolerate sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal, and will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.
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- FC Abbey Meads is committed to the development of the programme of ongoing training and awareness raising events and activities, in order to promote the eradication of discrimination within its own organisation, and within football as a whole.

Equal Opportunities

- FC Abbey Meads is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members of whatever level or authority, to abide and adhere to this general principle and the requirements of the Codes of Practice issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

All members are expected to abide by the requirements of the Race Relations Act 1976, Sex Discrimination Act 1986 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Specifically, discrimination is prohibited by:

- Treating any individual on grounds of gender, colour, marital status, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability less favourably than others.
- Expecting an individual solely on the grounds stated above to comply with requirement(s) for any reason whatsoever related to their membership, which are different from the requirements for others. • Imposing on an individual's requirements which are in effect more onerous on that individual than they are on others. For example, this would include applying a condition which makes it more difficult for members of a particular race or sex to comply than others not of that race or sex.
- Victimisation of an individual.
- Harassment of an individual, by virtue of discrimination.
- Any other act or omission of an act, which has as its effect the disadvantaging of a member against another, or others, purely on the above grounds. Thus, in all the Clubs recruitment, selection, promotion and training processes, as well as disciplinary matters, it is essential that merit, experience, skills and temperament are considered as objectively as possible.
- FC Abbey Meads commits itself to the immediate investigation of any claims of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice cease forthwith, restitution of damage or loss (if necessary) and to the investigation of any member accused of discrimination.
- Any member found guilty of discrimination will be instructed to desist forthwith. Since discrimination in its many forms is against the Football Clubs policy. Any members offending will be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure.
- FC Abbey Meads commits itself to the disabled person whenever possible and will treat such members, in aspects of their recruitment and membership, in exactly the same manner as other members. The difficulties of their disablement permitting, assistance will be given wherever possible to ensure that disabled members are helped in gaining access. Appropriate training will be made to such members who request it, if at all possible, using the resources available.

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Complaints Policy

In the event that any member feels that he or she has suffered discrimination in any way or that the Club Policies, Rules or Code of Conduct have been broken they should follow the procedures below:

1. They should report the matter to the Club Secretary or another member of the Committee.
2. Your report should include:
 - i. Details of what, when, and where the occurrence took place
 - ii. Any witness statement and names
 - iii. Names of any others who have been treated in a similar way
 - iv. Details of any former complaints made about the incident, date, when and to whom made
 - v. A preference for a solution to the incident.
3. The Club's Management Committee will sit for any hearings that are requested.
4. The Club's Management Committee will have the power to:
 - i. Warn as to future conduct
 - ii. Suspend from membership
 - iii. Remove from membership. any person found to have broken the Club's Policies or Codes of Conduct.

Goalpost Safety Guidelines

The following policy is recommended by the F.A. and is endorsed by the club: -

The Football Association, along with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Health and Safety Executive and the British Standards Institution, would like to draw your attention to the following guidelines for the safe use of goalposts. Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future.

1. For safety reasons goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground.
 - a. Portable goalposts must be secured by the use of chain anchors or appropriate anchor weights to prevent them from toppling forward.
 - b. It is essential that under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb, swing on or play with the structures of the goalposts.
 - c. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may topple over.
 - d. Regular inspections of goalposts should be carried out to check that they are kept properly maintained.
 - e. No person should set up goals without having first been shown by a competent person.
2. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage.
3. It is strongly recommended that nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks which cannot be replaced.
4. Goalposts which are “home -made” or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries.
5. Guidelines to prevent toppling:
 - i. Follow Manufacturer’s guidelines in assembling goalposts.
 - ii. Before use, adults should: - ensure each goal is anchored securely in its place. - exert a significant downward force on the cross bar. - exert a significant backward force on both upright posts. - exert a significant forward force on both upright posts.

These must be repeated until it is established that the structure is secure. If not, alternative goals/pitches must be used. For reference, you should note that The F.A. and BSI have developed a standard for future purchases (PAS 36:2000), available from BSI. It is hoped this will be developed into a full British Standard in due course.

REMEMBER TO USE ALL EQUIPMENT, NOT JUST GOALPOSTS, SAFELY AT ALL TIMES.