

Appendix C

Portishead Town Football Club Youth & Mini Code of Conduct

1. BACKGROUND

1. This document is prepared with a view to setting out what can be expected of:
 - (1) the Coaches/Managers of the Team;
 - (2) the Players/Team Members;
 - (3) the Officials, (Referees and Referees Assistants and Linesmen)
 - (4) the Parents of the Players/Team Members.
2. In addition, there is included a list of examples of unacceptable behaviour which may endanger or otherwise adversely affect the other Players, Managers or others involved in anyway in the Club
3. The Club understands that football influences young people and will therefore do all in its power to set positive example by:-
 - (1) Promoting equality and opposing any form of discrimination.
 - (2) Adhering to the highest standards of financial and administrative ethics.
 - (3) Rejecting violence of any nature.
 - (4) Embracing the spirit of fair play whilst understanding the requirement of playing to win.
4. Should a dispute arise as to the interpretation or the implementation of the terms of this document, a written notice of dispute should be given to one of the Managers/Coaches or club officials within 28 days of the dispute arising.
5. Any suggestions from Players, Parents or other interested parties as to the smooth running of the Club will be gratefully received by the Managers of the Team, bearing in mind that the decision of the Managers in this regard must be final.
6. Definitions of the terms in the document
 - (1) the Managers/Coaches/Club Officials means those concerned directly with the day to day administration of the matters on behalf of the Club and the training of the Players with the stated age;
 - (2) the Players means those attending training and/or playing matches arranged by the Club in the stated age group;
 - (3) the Officials mean those taking direct charge of the matches played or having being arranged by, or on behalf of, the Club;
 - (4) the Parents mean those concerned with the care of the Players either by way of parenthood, parental responsibility, guardianship or the family connection;
 - (5) the Club means Portishead Juniors Football Club and within the context of this document refers to the particular Players and their Parents to whom the document is issued and to Managers, Coaches and Club Officials.

2. THE ROLE OF COACHES AND MANAGERS

1. The overriding principal that the Managers will adhere to is their commitment to providing uncritical and positive instructions and support to the Players in respect of the physical training and skills, the rules and the ethos and spirit of the game of football placing the well being and safety of players above all other consideration.
2. The Managers will be responsible for the organisation and administration of the Teams and will arrange training for the Players and matches at times deemed to be convenient to the majority of Players and Parents.
3. The Managers will communicate with all the Players and/or Parents passing on the relevant information as to training, matches and the rules of the Club and the game of football, together with the relevant dates for all club events.
4. The Managers will endeavour to provide, where funds allow, the best available equipment for the purposes of training but as an overriding principal will ensure so far as possible, that the equipment provided is safe for usage and fit for the purpose.
5. The Managers will use their best endeavours to ensure that the Club is represented at all Club meetings and will disseminate all relevant information to the Players and Parents.
6. The Managers will endeavour to act in a way so as to provide a positive role model for the Players and Parents and will actively seek to encourage good behaviour and sportsmanship in all aspects of the participation within the Club=s activities. Breaches of the laws of the game or cheating of any sort will never be condoned or tolerated and Managers will seek to encourage and guide players to take responsibility for their own actions, behaviour and performance.
7. The Managers will attend as required approved F.A. Courses in junior team manager, basic first aid and child protection workshops to ensure a minimum level of qualification within the role and must adhere to the guidelines set out by the governing bodies.
8. Managers must not exert undue influence to obtain personal reward.
9. Managers must co-operate with other professionals or specialists in the best interests of the player.
10. Managers will not tolerate the use of inappropriate language.

3. THE ROLE OF PLAYERS/TEAM MEMBERS

1. The overriding principal of Players is that they should play and train to the best of their ability and should strive to play to win within the spirit and the rules of the game with a true sense of sportsmanship. **ALL MUST ENJOY PLAYING FOR THE CLUB.**
2. Players should show self-discipline in terms of their language and behaviour both on and off the field. Adherence to the rules after the game and avoidance of gamesmanship or other forms of cheating cannot be tolerated as players are expected to set a good example to other players and supporters. Failure to adhere to this direction may result in exclusion of the Player from the Club.
3. Players should have pride in themselves and the Club that they represent and should do nothing to bring the Club, its members or themselves into disrepute. Failure to adhere to this direction may result in exclusion from the Club.
4. Players should strive to create an atmosphere of team spirit within the Club and should encourage and help all other members whenever possible. In addition, Players should show respect for the Managers, the Opposition, Supporters and all others involved with the Club and should avoid violence or rough play that may injure or harm any of these people.
5. Players should show commitment to the Club by showing reliability and punctuality for the matches, training and club events and will ensure that they attend with all correct kit and protective equipment. Failure to bring and use approved kit and shinpads will result in the Managers refusing to allow the Player to participate in training or matches.
6. Overall, Players must be prepared to learn, improve their skills and enjoy the game.
7. Players should make every effort to know and abide by the rules of the game and should accept winning or losing equally.
8. In particular, players **MUST** show respect for the Match Officials and accept the decisions without protest or doing anything which may mislead the team. Failure to adhere to this direction may result in exclusion from the club.
9. Players acceptance of the Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy.

Players are deemed to have agreed to abide by the Club's Code of Conduct and to accept and adhere to the Club's Child Protection Policy by signing and returning the Declaration at the end of this document.

4. ROLE OF ADULTS/PARENTS AND GUARDIANS AND SUPPORTERS (PARENTS)

The role of Parents is generally split into these areas:

- 1) support for the Players
- 2) support for the Club and Officials
- 3) unacceptable behaviour
- 4) acceptance of Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy

1. Parents support for the Players

- (1) Save for equipment and kit provided by the club, parents must provide adequate clothing and protective equipment for the Player under their charge. For example, but not exclusively, Players must be provided with and attend training and matches with shinpads, appropriate weather protective clothing and/or change of clothing, boots, astroturf shoes etc.
- (2) Due to the Club and F.A. requirements for health and safety and insurance requirements, should appropriate items as set out in paragraph 4.1.(1) above, the Manager reserves the right to refuse to allow the Player to train or play in matches.
- (3) Parents are responsible for providing or arranging transport to and from training and matches.
- (4) Parents must use only positive comments regarding Players performance and strive to encourage rather than discourage Players.
- (5) Parents must be positive role models to Players in terms of attitude, restraint and sportsmanship and should applaud and encourage the opposition as well as their own team.

2. Parents Support for the Club and Officials

- (1) Parents attitude towards Managers and the Officials provides a role model to all players not only their own child. Parents must therefore:-
 - (1) respect the referees decision without comment
 - (2) respect the managers decision without comment
 - (3) avoid interference with coaching at formal training sessions unless assistance is requested
 - (4) avoid coaching the players during the game
- (2) Parents should give attention to each child involved in football not just the most talented
- (3) Parents should encourage everybody to participate in football and strive to make football an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all.

3. Unacceptable Involvement of Parents

The following matters, although not exclusive, will not be accepted from Parents:

- (1) verbal abuse to Players, Officials, Managers or others involved in opposing teams to include their supporters;
- (2) negative comments made to Players, Officials, Managers or others involved in opposing teams to include their supporters;
- (3) the use of obscene or foul language or other comments of a discriminatory nature whether based upon race, religion, sex, disability, age or sexual orientation;
- (4) entering the field of play at any time between kick off and the final whistle (including half time) without the permission of the Manager or other Officials;
- (5) any support by Parents of bad behaviour, unsporting behaviour or any other breach of the rules of the game by the Players;
- (6) any arguing with Players, Officials, Managers or others involved with opposing teams to include their supporters;
- (7) any interference or attempted influence whatever in the Manager=s role, to include coaching during the game or during formal training sessions without the consent or specific request of the Manager.

Unacceptable behaviour by Parents may lead to their exclusion from the club.

4. Parents Acceptance of the Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy

Parents are deemed to have agreed to abide by the Club's Code of Conduct and to accept and adhere to the Club's Child Protection Policy by signing and returning the Declaration at the end of this document.

5. ROLE OF REFEREE AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Within the context of the document the following provisions apply to Referees and Officials being Members, Coaches, Managers or other Officials of the Club.

1. Referees must apply the laws of the game with all due consideration to matters as they occur on the field of play, without bias or favour to any Team or individual.
2. Wherever possible, the referee will endeavour to briefly explain decisions to Players and other Officials.
3. Referees must control unruly spectators through Team Managers and be prepared to use sanctions if spectators' behaviour intrudes upon the Player's enjoyment of the game.
4. Referees must impose the appropriate sanctions upon Players who have acted in an unacceptable way, without bias or favour to any team or individual.
5. Examples of unacceptable behaviour by Players, although not exclusive, include:-
 - (1) foul and abusive language to include discriminatory comments as set out above;
 - (2) deliberate and professional fouls to include as handball, shirt pulling and the like;
 - (3) spitting
 - (4) intimidation or attempted intimidation of other Players of whatever team or Officials, Managers, supporters or any other persons involved with the Club.

DECLARATION:

I agree with the terms of specified rules and accept my responsibility in ensuing a positive experience for all involved in the Club and I am fully aware of sanctions available to the Club and/or Managers for breaches of this Code of Conduct

Signature

Name & Address

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(Parent/Guardian)

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(Parent/Guardian)

.....

(Player)

.....

(Date)