

Section 11 - CODES OF CONDUCT

THE GOOD MATCH OFFICIAL'S CODE

Match officials should:

- recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players.
- provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner during games.
- emphasise the spirit of the game.
- appreciate the needs of the young players before the needs of the sport.
- understand the physical, social and psychological development of young players.
- be a positive role model. You set an example, and as such, comments you receive should be positive and supportive.
- look to self-improvement e.g. participation in the Entry Level Referee Award or Referee Education Evenings.

Match officials must:

- recognise that the safety of young players is paramount.
- explain decisions - all young players are still learning.
- always penalise foul play.
- play advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow.
- show empathy for the age and ability of young players.
- be consistent and objective.
- ensure that verbal abuse from players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated and is dealt with by club officials immediately.
- be aware of, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.

