

NOVA UNITED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB **CODE OF CONDUCT**

1.0 CODE OF CONDUCT – FOOTBALL

1.1 Introduction

Football is our National game. All of those involved with the game at every level, and whether acting in the capacity of player, match official, coach or administrator have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act according to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game is, and remains high. This code applies to all those involved in football under the auspices of the Football Association.

1.2 Community

As football plays a large part of the community, Nova United Football Club (NUFC) will take into account the feelings of the community, as part of its decision making process.

1.3 Equality

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

1.4 Participants

NUFC recognises the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game, be these players, coaches, volunteers, officials, administrators or supporters, and is committed to a constitution that will allow appropriate consultation.

1.5 Young People

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

1.6 Propriety

NUFC acknowledges that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative behaviour. Corruption or improper practices WILL NOT be tolerated.

1.7 Trust and Respect

NUFC is committed to uphold a relationship of mutual trust and respect with all of those involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organisations.

1.8 Violence

NUFC deplors the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved with the game at any level.

1.9 Fairness

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

1.10 Integrity

Except in early junior years, NUFC is committed to the principle of playing to win consistent with Fair Play.

2.0 CODE OF CONDUCT – COACHES

2.1 Role responsibilities

Coaches are the key to upholding the ethics of football. Their attitude and concept directly affects the behaviour of players under their supervision. Coaches are therefore, expected to pay particular attention 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 their strategic targets, have ethical implications.

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 requested 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, parent or coach.

2.2 The NUFC Code of Conduct for Coaches is set out below; this forms the benchmark and standards required for all those involved in coaching:

- a) Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the game, such as 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.
- b) Coaches must respect the right, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the game.
- c) Coaches must place the well being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.

- d) Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
- e) Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- f) Coaches must not use their position to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- g) Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- h) Coaches must ensure that the activities that direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and the ability of the players.
- i) Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and where appropriate, the parent(s)) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- j) Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (for example, other coaches, officials, doctors etc) in the best interest of the player(s).
- k) Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- l) Coaches must not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

3.0 CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYERS

3.1 Role responsibilities

Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game. But not winning at any cost – Fair Play and respect for all others in the game is of extreme importance.

3.2 The NUFC Code of Conduct for Players is set out below; this forms the benchmark and standards expected for players playing for NUFC:

a) Obligations towards the game:

- Set a positive example for others, particularly the young and supporters.
- Make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, technique, tactics and stamina.
- Give maximum effort and to perform to the best of their ability throughout the game.
- Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including when publicly expressing an opinion on the game or club and any particular aspect of it, including others in the game.
- Avoid all forms of gamesmanship and time wasting.
- Not use inappropriate language.

b) Obligations towards own team:

- Make every effort consistent with fair play and the laws of the game to help their team win.
- Resist any influence, which might or might be seen to bring into question their commitment to the team winning.
- Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during the game regardless of the result.
- Always have regard to teammates and only give encouragement regardless of their performance or individual ability.
- Play for whichever team and in whichever position selected by the management.

c) Respect for the laws of the game:

- Know and abide by the laws, rules and spirit of the game.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
- Resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

d) Respect towards opponents:

- 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.

e) Respect towards match officials:

- Accept the decision of the match official without protest.
- Avoid words or actions, which may mislead a match official.
- Show due respect towards match official.

f) Respect towards team officials:

- Abide by the instructions and decisions of the coach/manager.
- Show due respect towards opposition team officials.

g) Obligations towards the supporters:

- Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

h) Payment of Fines

- It is the responsibility of all players to reimburse the Club, in full, for any fines incurred during games, such as those relating to the receipt of individual yellow and red cards.

4.0 CODE OF CONDUCT – PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

4.1 Role responsibilities

Parents and Spectators have a great influence on a child's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they love the game and because of the fun and pleasure that they derive from it. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within the club, that parents and spectators have a very important role and that positive encouragement will contribute to;

- Children enjoying football.
- A sense of personal achievement.
- Self-esteem.
- Improvement of children's skills and techniques.

The expectations of a parent and spectator have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards:

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

4.2 The NUFC Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators is set out below:

NUFC expect that parents / spectators representing the club are always positive, and give encouragement to all of the children, not just their own.

Parents / Spectators involved with NUFC should:

- a) Applaud the opposition as well as your own team.
- b) Avoid coaching the child during the game.
- c) Not shout and scream or use inappropriate language.
- d) Respect the referee's decision.
- e) Give attention to each of the children involved in football, not just the most talented.
- f) Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football.
- g) Not enter the field of play during a game.

Parents and Spectators must agree and adhere to the club's Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy.

5.0 POLICY ON CYBER-BULLYING

5.1 NUFC will not tolerate ‘Direct’ or ‘Proxy’ Cyberbullying in any form. It is expected that all connected with the Club in any capacity will respect others and take a stand against all forms of bullying, including but not limited to;

- a) Cyberbullying – when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, social networking sites, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.
- b) Direct Cyberbullying – when a message is sent to children directly.
- c) Proxy Cyberbullying – when the instigator uses others to help cyberbully the victim, either with or without the accomplice’s knowledge.

If a registered player or Club representative is found to be Cyberbullying another Football Club, player or club member then full disciplinary procedures will be invoked which may result in that person being expelled from the Club.

These disciplinary procedures equally apply to safeguard all adult managers, coaches, parents, spectators or guardians from any Club member who engages in, or condones bullying of any kind.

6.0 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

6.1 If any individual associated with NUFC feels that club policies, Rules or Code of Conduct has been broken, he / she should:

1. Report the matter to the Club Secretary or another member of the committee. The report should include:
 - a) Details of what took place, where and when.
 - b) Any witness statements and names.
 - c) Names of others who have been treated in a similar way.
2. The club’s Disciplinary Committee will sit for any hearings that are requested.
3. The club’s Disciplinary Committee will have the power to:
 - a) Warn as to future conduct.
 - b) Suspend membership of the club.
 - c) Remove from membership of the club.

As a Player of Nova United Football Club I agree to act in accordance with the Club’s ‘Code of Conduct’

NAME:

AGE GROUP:

SIGNED:

DATE:

As a Manager / Coach of Nova United Football Club I agree to act in accordance with the Club's 'Code of Conduct'

NAME:

AGE GROUP:

SIGNED:

DATE:

As a Parent of Nova United Football Club I agree to act in accordance with the Club's 'Code of Conduct'

NAME:

AGE GROUP:

SIGNED:

DATE: