



# HARROW UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Affiliated to Middlesex County FA

**'United We Play, United We Win'**



## THE GRASSROOTS CODE FOR ADULTS IN YOUTH FOOTBALL

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### **To help make football more enjoyable for all I should:**

- Come to training and matches with a positive attitude and put the well-being of children first.
  - Recognise examples of respect, effort and good play, as well as achievement.
  - Appreciate grassroots football should be about children playing and having fun, not solely about results.
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### **We always treat others as we'd like to be treated. To give respect at football I must:**

- Always use respectful and positive language and actions.
  - Not argue with the referee, coach, and officials, and accept their decisions.
  - Avoid coaching from the sidelines as a spectator, recognising this is likely to cause uncertainty and confusion across the team.
  - Encourage children to show fair play by shaking hands with opponents and being kind, whether we win or lose.
  - Stay in designated spectator or technical areas.
  - Tidy up after myself and take care of the facilities we use.
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### **We embrace our differences, football is a game for everyone. To be inclusive at football I must:**

- Show zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.
  - Report anything that concerns me via the relevant channel.
  - Treat people based on their character, and nothing else.
  - Accept that we all bring our own personal perspectives to the game.
  - Not exclude anyone because of background or personal characteristics.
  - Strive to give fair playing time to all children.
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**We're a team, on and off the pitch. To help us bond as a team I should:**

- Remember we are 'one team' helping young people enjoy football.
  - Encourage players and celebrate their effort.
  - Avoid criticising players if they make a mistake.
  - Discourage cheating, complaining and time wasting from everyone.
  - Accept that my child may not always be able to play in their favourite position, or may need to make a break to give someone else playing time.
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**We all have a role in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults. To keep everyone safe I must:**

- Accept it is my responsibility to know if my role in football places me in a position of trust.
  - Speak to my Club or League Designated Safeguarding Officer if I am unsure whether I am in a position of trust.
  - Understand appropriate boundaries must be in place, both online and during face-to-face activity.
  - Let a Club Official know if I see anything that looks unsafe.
  - Be aware of who the first aiders are, and where the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator is located.
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**Keep appropriate boundaries by:**

- Always putting the well-being of children first.
  - Being friendly but professional.
  - Encouraging children to review their own progress.
  - Raising concerns about a child to the Club Welfare Officer if they display behaviour not usual to them or which causes concern.
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**Follow the 'Physical contact and young people: Guidance for grassroots football' guidelines. If my role requires physical contact with a child, I will:**

- Ask the child's permission and explain the type of, and reason for the physical contact.



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- Keep physical contact to skill development, first aid, harm prevention or celebration of success or comfort in times of distress.
- Ensure another responsible adult is present for the duration.
- Remember physical touch should be culturally sensitive to a child.
- Not participate in training, warm up or cool down sessions with children (including my own) to protect them from accidental physical harm.

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**I understand that my club, League, County FA or The FA may take action, that could include:**

- Giving me a verbal warning.
- Asking me to meet with the Club, League or CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Asking me to meet with the Club Committee.
- Asking that I complete an FA education course.
- Asking that I leave the match venue.
- Requesting that I do not attend future games.
- Suspending me or removing my Club membership.
- Fining me.
- Fining and/or suspending my Club.

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## **About Referees, Assistant Referees and Match Officials:**

The FA believes that all Match Officials should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any threatening behaviour or physical contact on a Match Official will result in a lengthy exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution.

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## THE GRASSROOTS CODE FOR ADULT FOOTBALL

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**To help make football more enjoyable for all I should:**

- Try and bring a positive mindset to all my matches and training sessions.
  - Think before I act or speak and recognise not everyone will get or like my 'banter'.
  - Remember that while we all want to win, we have the right to go home without being intentionally harmed or injured.
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**We always treat others as we'd like to be treated. To give respect at football I must:**

- Always use respectful and positive language and actions.
  - Not argue with the referee, coach, and officials, and accept their decisions.
  - Follow the rules of the game.
  - Show fair play by shaking hands with our opponents, whether we win, lose or draw.
  - Stay in my team area when I am not on the pitch.
  - Tidy up after myself and take care of the facilities we use.
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**We embrace our differences, football is a game for everyone.**

**To be inclusive at football I must:**

- Show zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.
  - Report anything that concerns me via the relevant channel.
  - Know that any abuse or discrimination — like racism, sexism or homophobia — can lead to bans, fines and/or police action.
  - Treat people based on their character, and nothing else.
  - Accept that we all bring our own personal perspectives to the game.
  - Not exclude anyone because of background or personal characteristics.
  - Remember football is a game for everyone, no matter who they are.
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**We're a team, on and off the pitch. To help us bond as a team I should:**

- Remember we are all responsible for the result of a match.
  - Play fairly, without cheating, diving, complaining, or wasting time.
  - Play to the best of my ability to help my team.
  - Encourage my team-mates and not criticise them, even when they make mistakes.
  - Recognise that if I'm the Captain, I need to try hard to set a positive example for others to follow.
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**We all have a role in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults. To keep everyone safe I will:**

- Recognise 16 and 17 year-olds at my club are young people.
  - Accept it is my responsibility to know if my role in football places me in a position of trust.
  - Speak to my Club or League Designated Safeguarding Officer if I am unsure whether I am in a position of trust.
  - Understand appropriate boundaries must be in place, both online and during face-to-face activity.
  - Let a club official know if I see anything that looks unsafe.
  - Be aware of who the first aiders are, and where the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator is located.
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**Keep appropriate boundaries by:**

- Always putting the well-being of young people first.
  - Being friendly but professional.
  - Encouraging young people to review their own progress.
  - Raising concerns about a young person to the Club Welfare Officer if they display behaviour not usual to them or which causes concern.
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**Follow the 'Physical contact and young people: Guidance for grassroots football' guidelines. If my role requires physical contact with a young person, I will:**

- Ask the young person's permission and explain the type of, and reason for the physical contact.
  - Keep physical contact to skill development, first aid, harm prevention or celebration of success or comfort in times of distress.
  - Ensure another responsible adult is present for the duration.
  - Remember physical touch should be culturally sensitive to the young person.
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**I understand that my Club, League, County FA or The FA may take action, that could include:**

- Giving me a verbal warning.
  - Asking me to meet with my Club Committee, the league or our Standard CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer.
  - Asking that I complete an FA education course.
  - Asking that I leave the match venue.
  - Requesting that I do not attend future games.
  - Suspending me or removing my Club membership.
  - Fining me.
  - Fining and/or suspending my Club.
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