



PARK UNITED – CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDELINES

1) Aims and Objectives

The aim of Park United Football Club is to provide all players at our club with the maximum opportunities to develop their footballing ability to its full potential. This will be achieved with the full co-operation of Managers/Coaches, Players and Parents in a safe and friendly environment.

2) Code of Conduct for Managers/Coaches

1. Managers/Coaches will show respect for all players and officials and lead by example.
2. Be fully prepared for coaching sessions and matches (including First-Aid, Kit, etc.).
3. Ensure a safe environment for learning and development.
4. Managers/Coaches to keep themselves up to date with new ideas on coaching and development.
5. Encourage each player in terms of self-discipline, good behaviour and punctuality.
6. Be self-critical and not afraid to seek assistance.
7. Be familiar with the Park United Football Club Child Protection Guidelines.
8. Liaise with parents.
9. Ensure that all players are aware that all forms of bullying will not be tolerated.
10. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved.
11. Managers/Coaches must always display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
12. Use of foul or derogatory language in any form is strictly prohibited.
13. If a player requires hospital treatment the Manager will immediately notify the parents/guardians by phone.

All above is superseded by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as directed by The Irish Sports Council and supported by the FAI. See back of booklet for further information.

3) Code of Conduct for Players

1. Always show respect for team-mates, managers/coaches, opponents and officials.
2. Always turn up on time for matches and training.
3. Always play to win but accept defeat like proper sportsmen or sportswomen.
4. Always have commitment to your club and pride in your performance.
5. Ensure that your lifestyle helps rather than hinders your progress.
6. Pay your subs every week without having to be asked.
7. Arrive for training and matches with the proper gear and boots.
8. Listen to advice given and ask questions if you don't understand.
9. Help out with equipment before and after matches and training.
10. Let the manager know, as soon as possible, if you are injured or sick.
11. Bullying will not be tolerated and if you feel you are being bullied feel safe to tell the manager.
12. Use of foul or derogatory language in any form is strictly prohibited.
13. Enjoy playing and training with Park United F.C.

All above is superseded by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as directed by The Irish Sports Council and supported by the FAI. See back of booklet for further information.

4) Code of Conduct for Parents/Legal Guardians

1. Always show respect for all players, opponents, managers/coaches and officials.
2. Have realistic expectations for your son/daughter and don't put him/her under undue pressure.
3. Ensure that your son/daughter arrives on time for training and matches and that safe arrangements are in place for getting your son/daughter home afterwards.
4. Leave coaching to the coaches.
5. Respect the managers'/coaches' decisions.
6. Assist when asked.
7. Accept disappointment, praise good work and refrain from criticising.
8. Use of foul or derogatory language in any form is strictly prohibited.
9. Support the club's fund-raising activities where possible.
10. Emphasise skill development and practice over winning and how they benefit your child (and other children/players). De-emphasise games and competition in the lower age groups.
11. Agree to accept all legal responsibility for their children's welfare and conduct on leaving, and post agreed finishing times for, organised club activities and events. Coaches/managers/volunteers will not be responsible for children who are not collected at agreed times or leave supervision during said activities and events.

All above is superseded by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as directed by The Irish Sports Council and supported by the FAI. See back of booklet for further information.

5) Child Protection Policy

1. Park United Football Club believes that concern for the general well-being and welfare of all children and young persons under its care is of paramount importance in developing the young players of the future.
2. The club recognises the responsibilities and trust that is placed upon it by all players and their families.
3. It will seek to respond to that responsibility by encouraging and enforcing best practice in Child Protection matters and encourage everyone involved in the club to recognise this.

CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDELINES TO BE RETAINED BY PARENT / GUARDIAN / COACH

4. The protection of the child must be the first priority of all its members.
5. All Managers/Coaches must know the club's policy and procedures, be encouraged to listen to concerns of players and take their complaints seriously.
6. All current and potential Managers/Coaches shall consent to be screened as to their suitability to work with children as specified by the FAI Child Protection guidelines.
7. Park United will emphasise to all members that they have a duty to report to the Designated Person any concerns they have over the possible abuse of children. This duty also applies to concerns they might have about a colleague.
8. The Club will provide guidance to anyone who makes a report of suspected abuse and they will be fully supported when voicing these concerns.

6) Guidance to Promote Good Practice by Managers/Coaches

The following guidelines are suggested to Managers/Coaches in an attempt to (a) reduce situations that could lead to the abuse of children and (b) protect those who are working with children and young people.

- Always try to work with children and young people in the open and in public view.
- With very young children, encourage parents to be responsible for their children in the changing rooms, if possible.
- It is possible that a Manager/Coach might have to help young children with undressing, changing and dressing. Such tasks should only be carried out after discussion and consent of the player and parents.
- Always ensure Managers/Coaches work in pairs when children have to be supervised in the changing rooms.
- Use a Buddy System at all times where possible – children should be accompanied by another child in their group for toilet visits, changing, emergency situations, transport etc.
- Always try to develop a climate, which discourages the criticising of those who are seen as having less ability.
- Always try to take steps to challenge bullying and always listen to complaints from team members who feel that they are being bullied.
- Always try to avoid being alone in a car with a child/young person. Sometimes this will be unavoidable but try to make sure the child/young person sits in the back of the car.
- Always try to avoid taking a child/young person home, especially if they would be alone with a Manager/Coach.
- It is advisable that Managers/Coaches identify who will be collecting a child/young person following a match or training session.
- Managers/Coaches should take steps to know who will care for a child/young person if his parents are not at home when the child is returned home following a match or training session.

All above is superseded by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as directed by The Irish Sports Council and supported by the FAI. See back of booklet for further information.

7) Anti-Bullying Policy

It is vital that everyone within the club understands that Bullying will not be tolerated and that the following conditions must be met. In being confronted with a possible case of bullying all Managers/Coaches must be prepared to:

- Take the problem seriously.
- Investigate the incident.
- Talk to the bullies and victims separately.
- Decide on an appropriate action such as:
 - Obtain an apology from the bully to victim.
 - Inform the parents of the bully.
 - Encourage and support the bully to change his behaviour.
 - Impose sanctions against bullies up to and including dismissal.

8) Child Protection Advice for Players

You are entitled to:

- Be safe and be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy soccer.
- Experience competition and the desire to win as a positive and healthy outcome of striving for best performance.
- Comment and make suggestions in an appropriate and constructive manner.
- Be listened to and be believed.
- Most importantly, you are entitled to express concerns and make complaints in an appropriate way and have these dealt with through an effective complaints procedure.

Players or parents who wish to make a complaint should feel free to contact their Team Manager, Park United's Child Welfare Officer, Ellen Fitzgibbon (086 8488029), or the Club Chairperson.

9) For Further Information See:

- Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children's Sport, The Irish Sports Council, 2001.
- Our Duty to Care, Department of Health & Children, 2002.
- Children First, National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Department of Health, 1999.
- Contact: FAI National Children's Officer, National Sports Campus, Abbotstown, Dublin 15. Tel: 087-9691422. Email: codeofethics@fai.ie.
- Visit FAI website: www.fai.ie/domestic/safeguarding/overview