



NEXT LEVEL FOOTBALL CLUB

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Effective Date: June 2025

Approved By: Aaron Minott (Director)

1. Introduction

Next Level Football Club is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and positive environment where all players can enjoy football, develop their skills, and grow as individuals.

This Player Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected from all players representing Next Level FC, both on and off the pitch. It aligns with The FA Respect Programme and reflects the Club's core values of **Respect, Unity, Discipline, and Development**.

All players are ambassadors of Next Level FC and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to the Club, their team, and themselves at all times.

2. Core Principles

All players must:

- Play football for enjoyment, development, and teamwork.
- Always try their best, regardless of the score or outcome.
- Play fairly and within the Laws of the Game.
- Respect match officials, opponents, teammates, coaches, and spectators at all times.
- Accept the referee's decisions without argument.
- Show good sportsmanship in both victory and defeat.
- Shake hands with match officials and opponents before or after matches, where appropriate.
- Treat all facilities, equipment, and venues with respect.
- Follow the instructions of coaches and team managers.
- Never use abusive, aggressive, offensive, or discriminatory language or behaviour.
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation, or retaliation of any kind.

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3. Competitive Football & Training Commitment

Next Level FC is a **competitive football club** committed to individual player development, high standards, and team progression. While we strive to provide positive opportunities for all players, match selection and playing time are not guaranteed.

To ensure fairness, consistency, and team performance:

- Players are expected to consistently attend scheduled training sessions
- Training attendance, attitude, effort, and application are key factors in team selection and playing time for games
- Players who regularly miss training, arrive late, or fail to engage fully may be impacted due to these reasons on game day.
- Matchday minutes are determined by the coaching team based on:
 - o Training attendance and commitment
 - o Performance and effort in training
 - o Tactical requirements and opposition
 - o Player behaviour and adherence to this Code of Conduct
- Absences due to illness, injury, or exceptional circumstances should be communicated in advance to the coach or team manager and will be considered on a case by case basis.
- All decisions will be applied in an age-appropriate manner, with player welfare and development remaining the priority, particularly in younger age groups.

4. The FA Respect Code of Conduct

Next Level FC fully adopts The FA Respect Code of Conduct for Players.

By registering with the Club, all players agree to uphold the FA Respect values and expectations throughout their involvement with Next Level FC, including training sessions, matches, tours, and Club events.

5. Behaviour On and Off the Pitch

Players are expected to maintain appropriate behaviour:

- During matches and training
- In changing rooms and facilities
- When travelling to and from fixtures or tournaments
- On tours and residential trips
- On social media or online platforms where they may be associated with the Club

Behaviour that brings Next Level FC into disrepute may be treated as a breach of this Code, even if it occurs away from the football pitch.

6. Breach of the Code of Conduct

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Next Level FC takes breaches of this policy seriously. Any incidents involving player misconduct will be reviewed by appropriate Club officials and, where necessary, escalated in line with FA or League regulations.

Parents or carers will be informed of any significant or repeated breaches of this Code.

7. Disciplinary Process

Depending on the nature and frequency of the behaviour, one or more of the following actions may be taken:

1. Verbal Warning – Issued by a coach or Club official.
2. Apology – Required to teammates, officials, opponents, or coaches.
3. Written Warning – Formal notice outlining the breach.
4. Temporary Match Action – Substitution or removal from a match.
5. Suspension from Training – For a defined period.
6. Suspension from Fixtures – Temporary ban from matches.
7. Membership Review – Suspension or removal from Next Level FC.
8. Referral – To the League or County FA for formal disciplinary action.

The Club reserves the right to take immediate action where behaviour is deemed serious or damaging.

8. Safeguarding and Welfare

Players are encouraged to speak to someone they trust if they feel unhappy, unsafe, or uncomfortable at any point. This may include:

- Their coach or team manager
- A Club Welfare or Safeguarding Officer
- A parent or carer

Next Level FC is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all players.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in line with updates from The FA or League Regulations. Any changes will be communicated to players and parents and published through the Club's official channels.

10. Acknowledgement

By registering with Next Level Football Club, players agree to comply with this Player Code of Conduct and understand that breaches may result in disciplinary action as outlined above.

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