

Code of Conduct for Children/Young Players

Aquinas FC is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that staff/coaches/volunteers and parents/guardians associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with their coach or the Child Welfare Officer, Garry Cullen

Football clubs for children/young people should offer a positive experience where they can learn new things in a safe and positive environment.

As a member of Aquinas FC, you are expected to abide by the following code of practice:

Children/young players are expected to:

- Be loyal and give their team mates a second chance
- Be friendly and particularly welcoming to new members
- Be supportive and committed to other team mates, offer comfort when required
- Not get involved in inappropriate peer pressure and push others into something they do not want to do
- Be responsible for their own kit
- Wear appropriate footwear/shin pads
- Bring their own water bottle/fluid
- Keep within the defined boundary of the playing/coaching area
- Behave and listen to all instructions from the coach/volunteers
- Take care of equipment owned by the club/centre
- Refrain from the use of bad language or racial/sectarian references
- Refrain from bullying or persistent use of rough and dangerous play
- Show respect to other players, staff/coaches/volunteers and parents/guardians
- Report inappropriate behaviour
- Play fairly
- Respect officials and accept decisions
- Be gracious in defeat
- Respect opponents and not cheat
- Not use violence
- Arrive on time
- Be collected on time.

Children/young people have the right to:

- Be safe and happy in football
- Be listened to
- Be respected and treated fairly
- Privacy
- Enjoy football in a protective environment
- Be referred to professional help if needed
- Be protected from inappropriate behaviour/abuse by other club/centre members or outside sources
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability
- Experience competition and the desire to win
- Be believed when asking for help.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct for Children/Young Players will be addressed by the immediate coach and may be reported verbally and in writing to the designated Child Welfare Officer. If a child/young player continues to breach the Code of Conduct after an initial verbal warning from the immediate coach/volunteer, disciplinary action (which could include suspension or expulsion) will be taken.