



Virginia Water FC

Code of Conduct

General Philosophy

- Discipline and fun can co-exist. Football is a game that is fun and children play because they enjoy it. The fun will not be taken out of the game, but at the same time it is not a free-for-all for players to come and mess around or just play a 'big game'. Children can go the park to do that with their friends, they don't need a coach for that
- The vast majority of training sessions will be conducted with a ball, although there will be occasions for the need of some fitness work
- Focus will be on performance and not results. Player and team development is the primary focus and this will be reiterated to the players
- Effort will be rewarded over ability. Team selection will largely be determined by attitude, behaviour, attendance and effort towards performance in training rather than player ability
- Club environment; players must conduct themselves appropriately on and off the pitch. Respect must be shown to players, staff and parents from other teams that belong to the club, and efforts should be made to attend club functions
- Team focus. Players must realise and remember that they are part of a team. They are there to encourage their teammates and pull together for the good of the team. Everyone makes mistakes and no-one will be told off by anyone when they do

What the players can expect from the manager/coach

- Respect: for the players, parents, opposition and officials
- Equality: all players will be treated equally and fairly regardless of ability or status within the team
- Organisation: training sessions will be planned and structured, as will matchday preparations
- Encouragement: mistakes are part of learning, no-one will be 'told off' for making a mistake
- Development: emphasis will be to teach the players and develop their individual and team skills
- Focus: player performance is the primary focus, not results of the games
- Knowledge: information that will be shared to develop the players

What is expected individually from the players

- Everyone must follow all directions given by the management/coaches
- Everyone must do their best
- When coaches talk players must be quiet, still and listen
- When it is the turn for one of the players to talk all other players must be quiet, still and listen
- Everyone to be a good sport whether we win or lose
- No swearing or name-calling
- No spitting
- No throwing of objects (e.g. mud)

- Disruptive or disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated
- Respect for the management, players, parents, opposition and officials
- Willingness to learn. It's ok to make mistakes, but players must try to learn from them and not be ignorant to taking advice in how to correct them
- Any financial fines incurred by players are the responsibility of the player and parents, and they must ensure all fines are paid. If fines are unpaid then the club reserves the right to suspend players until the fines are paid

Team Rules

- Play according to the laws and spirit of the game
- Be on time and be prepared for matches and training sessions
- Display self-control in all situations. Never use foul or abusive language - before, during or after a game or training session
- Train and play to the best of your ability, have a positive attitude, and encourage others to do the same
- Respect the opposition. Treat them as you would like them to treat you
- Respect the officials. Never dispute their decisions. They are only human and they make mistakes, just like you
- Turn up for training and matches in appropriate and clean clothing
- Wear the right sort of footwear depending on the playing conditions
- Always wear shinpads (this is an FA requirement. No shinpads = no playing, even at training)
- Clean boots on matchdays (must be cleaned by the players themselves)

What is expected from the parents

- Parents must not coach from the pitch side during matches and training
- Be your child's biggest fan and support them unconditionally
- Focus on the positive aspects of your child's game
- Develop a responsibility in your child to pack their own kit, clean their boots and bring along drink
- Respect the facilities at our opponents' grounds
- Do not criticise the manager/coach to your child or other parents, if you are not happy you should raise any issue with the manager/coach
- Encourage your child to liaise with the coach. If your child is having difficulties in training or games, or can't attend training etc. encourage them to speak directly to the manager/coach. This "responsibility taking" is a big part of becoming a mature person. By handling off the field tasks, your child is claiming ownership of all aspects of the game
- Players should be in bed at a reasonable hour on the night before a game
- Help your child to focus on the performance and not the result - winning is not as important as the performance
- Support all the players in your child's squad. Do not criticise any player
- Do not criticise the opponents, their parents, managers/coaches or the officials

I agree to the terms in this document and I am aware that failure to comply with the code of conduct may result in disciplinary action with the club