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# The Worthys Youth Football Club

## Code of Conduct for Football

Team Managers  
2009/10

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## Administration page

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### Record of changes

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Issue	Date	Detail of Changes
1.0	June 2006	First issue.
1.1	14 August '06	Club logo, revised photos and details of managers for 2006/07 added to front page.
1.2	15 July '07	Team Manager update for 2007/08 + new club team photo
1.3	18 May '08	Team Manager update for 2008/09 + new club team photo
1.4	04 June '09	Club Officials and Team Manager update for 2009/10 + new club team photo.  Removal of Parent, Player and Coach agreement form, as sign-off is now covered within the WYFC membership form.

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## Content

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Definitions.....	2
3. Code of Conduct for Coaches .....	4
4. Code of conduct for players.....	6
5. Code of conduct for team officials .....	8
6. Code of conduct for parents/spectators.....	10
7. The Worthys YFC specific code of conduct.....	11
8. The Worthys YFC warning note .....	12
9. Parent, player and coach agreement .....	13

## **1. Introduction**

The Worthys YFC recognises that football is the national game.

The Worthys YFC recognises the Football Association's Code of Conduct as good practice and that it applies to all those involved in the practices of the Club.

The Worthys YFC recognises that all those involved with the game at every level and whether as a player, match official, coach, owner or administrator, have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act according to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game is, and remains, high.

This code of conduct applies to all those involved in football under the auspices of The Football Association.

## 2. Definitions

Football is the national game. All those involved with the game at every level and whether as a player, match official coach, owner or administrator, have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act according to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game is, and remains, high. This code applies to all those involved in football under the auspices of The Football Association.

### Community

Football, at all levels, is a vital part of a community.

Football will take into account community feeling when making decisions.

### Equality

Football is opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent it, in whatever form, from being expressed.

### Participants

Football recognises the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who play, those who coach or help in any way, and those who officiate, as well as administrator and supporters.

Football is committed to appropriate consultation.

### Young People

Football acknowledges the extent of its influence over young people and pledges to set a positive example.

### Propriety

Football acknowledges that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative behaviour within the game, and will not tolerate corruption or improper practices.

### Trust and Respect

Football will uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organisations

### Violence

Football rejects the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game.

### Fairness

Football is committed to fairness in its dealings with all involved in the game.

### Integrity and Fair Play

Football is committed to the principle to playing to win consistent with Fair Play.

### **3. Code of Conduct for Coaches**

The Worthys YFC believes that coaches are key to the establishment of ethics in football. The concept of ethics is their attitude directly affects the behaviour of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate themselves from a 'win-at-all-costs' attitude.

Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement of the reputation of the club, school, coach or parent.

Set out below is The FA Coaches Association Code of Conduct (which reflects the standards expressed by the National Coaching Foundation and the National Association of Sports Coaches) which forms the benchmark for all involved in coaching:

1. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat equally within the context of the sport
2. Coaches must place the wellbeing and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance
3. Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies
4. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect
5. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
6. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance

7. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players
8. Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, parent) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach
9. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player
10. Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques
11. Coaches must consistently display high standards or behaviour and appearance
12. Not to use or tolerate inappropriate language

The Worthys YFC have adopted the above code of conduct for its coaches and expects each coach to follow it whilst working for the club.

## 4. Code of conduct for players

The Worthys YFC believe that players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game. But not winning at any cost – Fair Play and respect for all others in the game is fundamentally important.

Whilst this Code focuses on players involved in top-class football, The Worthys YFC believes that the key concepts in the Code are valid for players at all levels.

### Obligations towards the game

A player should:

1. Make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, technique, tactics and stamina
2. Give maximum effort and strive for best possible performance during a game, even if his team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved
3. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters
4. Avoid all forms of gamesmanship, and time-wasting
5. Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any particular aspect including others involved in the game
6. Not use inappropriate language

### Obligations towards one's own team

A player should:

1. Make every effort consistent with Fair Play and the Laws of the Game to help his own team win
2. Resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning

### Respect for the Laws of the Game and competition rules

A player should:

1. Know and abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the game, and the competition rules

2. Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally
3. Resist and temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques

#### Respect towards Opponents

A player should:

1. Treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game
2. Safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents

#### Respect towards the Match Officials

A player should:

1. Accept the decision of the Match Official without protest
2. Avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official
3. Show due respect towards Match Officials

#### Respect towards Team Officials

A player should:

1. Abide by the instructions of their Coach and Team Officials, provided they do not contradict the spirit of this Code
2. Show due respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition

#### Respect towards the Supporters

A player should:

1. Show due respect to the interests of supporters

## 5. Code of conduct for team officials

This code applies to all team/club officials (although some items may not apply to all officials).

### Obligations towards the Game

The Team Official should:

1. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters
2. Promote and develop his own team having regard to the interest of the Players, Supporters and reputation of the national game
3. Share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interest of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests
4. Avoid all forms of gamesmanship
5. Show dues respect to Match Officials and others involved in the game
6. Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game
7. Not use or tolerate inappropriate language

### Obligations towards the Team

The Team Official should:

1. Make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the club/team, and obtain the best results by the team, using all permitted means
2. Give priority to the interests of the team over individual interest
3. Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques
4. Promote ethical principles
5. Show due respect to the interests of players, coaches and other officials, at their own club/team and others

### Obligations towards the Supporters

The Team Official should:

1. Show due respect to the interests of supporters

### Respect towards the Match Officials

The Team Official should:

1. Accept the decisions of the Match Official without protest
2. Avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official
3. Show due respect towards Match Officials

## 6. Code of conduct for parents/spectators

The Worthys YFC recognise that parents and spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they first and foremost love the game – its fun. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within your club it is important to reinforce the message to parents and spectators that positive encouragement will contribute to:

- a. Children enjoying football
- b. A sense of personal achievement
- c. Self-esteem
- d. Assist to improve the child's skills and techniques

A parents/spectator's expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards:

- Other players
- Officials
- Managers
- Spectators

The Worthys YFC expect that parents/spectators with the club will always be positive and encouraging towards all of the children not just their own.

The Worthys YFC encourage parents/spectators to:

- Applaud the opposition as well as their own team
- Avoid coaching the child during the game
- Not shout and scream
- Respect the referee's decision
- Give attention to each of the children involved in football not just the most talented
- Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football

The Worthys YFC will ensure that parents/spectators within the club agree and adhere to the club's Code of Conduct (this document) and Child protection policy.

## **7. The Worthys YFC specific code of conduct**

In addition to the above Code of Conduct, the Worthys YFC expects players to:

- Arrive punctually for both training sessions and matches;
- Be suitably prepared for both training sessions and matches;
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the given weather conditions;
- Bring an appropriate drink for use during training sessions and matches;
- Behave responsibly on and off the pitch;
- Use the equipment in the manner in which it is intended;
- Show respect their fellow players;
- Not criticise or ridicule fellow players;
- Respect their club officials;
- Encourage and support each other;
- Ask a coach if they do not understand anything.

In return, the coaches will:

- Encourage the players to do their best;
- Train them appropriately;
- Ensure that their views are listened to.

## 8. The Worthys YFC warning note

If the behaviour of a player becomes unacceptable during a training session or a match, the Coach responsible for the team will issue a 'warning' note to the player's parent or guardian informing them of the behaviour and requesting that they ensure that it does not happen again.

If the players' behaviour does not improve after this warning, the player concerned will be dropped from the team for the next match, or permanently if it is considered necessary.

If a Coach has to issue three of these 'warning' notes the player will be banded from playing for the team.

A sample 'warning' note is shown below:

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Unfortunately I have to report that your child has

.....  
.....

during today's training session / match.

Can you please discuss this with your child and ensure that it does not happen again.

If you need to discuss this will either the Team Manager or Assistant Manager, please do not hesitate to do so.

Signed: Team Manager / Assistant Manager

## **9. Parent, player and coach agreement**

At the start of each season or when a new player joins the Club, each parent and player will be required to read and accept the Code of Conduct defined within this document.

In addition to this:

- Each parent will be required to sign the Worthys YFC membership form which contains a section stating that they have read the Worthys YFC Code of Conduct and that they will endeavour to ensure that their child follows this whilst attending training sessions and matches.
- Each parent will also agree to accept responsibility for the actions of their child and should this become inappropriate they accept that their child may be omitted from the team as a result.