



Abbeymead Rovers Football Club



**ACCREDITED
CLUB** ★ ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

www.abbeymeadroversfc.co.uk

The Grassroots Code for Adults in Youth Football

Play your part – Respect the Standard

Enjoy the Game

We're here to enjoy ourselves, win lose or draw.

To help make Football more enjoyable for all we all should:

- Come to training and matches with a positive attitude and put the well-being of children first.
- Recognise examples of respect, effort and good play, as well as achievement.
- Appreciate that Grassroots football should be about children playing and having fun, not solely about results.

Give Respect

We always treat others as we'd like to be treated.

To give respect at football we must:

- Always use respectful and positive language and actions.
- Not argue with the Referee, Coach or Officials and accept their decisions.
- Avoid coaching from the sidelines as a spectator, recognising this is likely to cause uncertainty and confusion across the team.
- Encourage children to show fair play by shaking hands with opponents and being kind, whether we win or lose.
- Stay in designated spectator or technical areas.
- Help tidy up after training or matches and take care of the facilities we use.

Be Inclusive

We embrace our differences, football is a game for everyone.

To be inclusive at football we must:

- Show zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.
- Report anything of concern via the relevant channel.
- Treat people based on their character, and nothing else.
- Accept that we all bring our own personal perspectives to the game.
- Not exclude anyone because of background or personal characteristics.
- Strive to give fair playing time to all children.

Work Together

We're a team, on and off the pitch. To help us bond as a team we should:

- Encourage team-mates if they make a mistake.
- Try our best and help the team by being positive and supportive.
- Play fairly without cheating, diving, complaining or wasting time.
- Accept that we may not be able to play in our favourite position all the time or that we may need to take a break to give someone else playing time.

Play Safe

We all have a role in Safeguarding Children. To help keep everyone safe we must:

- Accept it is our responsibility to know if our role in football places us in a position of trust.
- Speak to the Club or League Designated Safeguarding Officer unsure whether we are in a position of trust.
- Understand appropriate boundaries must be in place, both online and during face-to-face activity.
- Keep appropriate boundaries by:
 - Always putting the well-being of children first.
 - Being friendly but professional.
 - Encouraging children to review their own progress.
 - Raising concerns about a child to the Club Welfare Officer if they display behaviour not usual to them or which causes concern.
- Let a Club Official know if we see anything that looks unsafe.
- Be aware of who the first aiders are, and where the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator is located.
- Follow the 'Physical contact and young people: Guidance for grassroots football' guidelines. If our role requires physical contact with a child, we will:
 - Ask the child's permission and explain the type of, and reason for the physical contact.
 - Keep physical contact to skill development, first aid, harm prevention or celebration of success or comfort in times of distress.
 - Ensure another responsible adult is present for the duration.
 - Remember physical touch should be culturally sensitive to a child.
 - Not participate in training, warm up or cool down sessions with children (including my own) to protect them from accidental physical harm.

If we DON'T live up to the standard

The Club, League or County FA may take action that could include:

- Issuing a verbal warning.
- Issuing an invitation to a meeting with the Club Committee, League or CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Asking for an FA Education Course to be completed.
- Being asked to leave the match venue.
- Being asked not to attend future games.
- Suspension and/or removing our Club membership.
- Fining us and/or the Club.
- Suspending the Club

Written By Sallie Lavis

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