



# GREYSTONES UNITED AFC

## CODE OF ETHICS PROGRAMME

*PARENTS/GUARDIANS CODE OF CONDUCT*

*Updated - July 2025*



## Support and encouragement from parents / guardians

As a parent/guardian who has registered a player to Greystones United AFC, we understand and agree to the following guidelines laid out by the club as to the responsibilities and roles of the parents/guardians.

Parental expectations and behaviour have a significant bearing on children's attitude and behaviour while participating in football and, while winning is important, it must be remembered that winning at all costs does not meet the needs of players. Results are not necessarily a good indicator of coaching effectiveness or ability - the improvement level and continuous development of players plus their level of enjoyment is. In taking this approach children should be encouraged to:

- Do their best - put in their best effort.
- Improve and develop their skills in accordance with the Greystones United AFC player development and assessment programmes.
- Make friends.
- Play by the rules.
- Appreciate/accept everyone in the group, regardless of ability, race, religion, gender etc.

## Lead by Example

As parents/guardians we understand that it is important to help our children to set realistic targets. This may involve controlling our own aspirations and avoiding the desire to force our own dreams or unfulfilled ambitions on them. We will always look to:

- Encourage healthy lifestyle habits.
- Attend training and games where possible.
- Promote and teach FAIR PLAY.
- Teach your child to treat referees, other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, colour, sex or ability.
- Help children to set realistic targets.
- Help children with decision making.

### As Parents/Guardians we will not:

- Ignore or dismiss any concerns expressed by a child which relate to his/her involvement in the game.
- Ridicule or shout at a child for losing a game or making a mistake.
- Take safety for granted.
- Put undue pressure on any child to please or perform well.



# Parent / Coach Co-Operation

It is important that as parents/guardians we establish contact with the individual responsible for coaching our child. In addition, we should also:

- Give the coach help when asked and show appreciation for a job well done.
- Support the coach's and referee's decisions. These individuals are only doing the best they can and they need support not anger.
  - Refrain from contacting the coach unless it is necessary, respect they have a private life.
- Inform the coach about any illness, injury, holidays, etc.
- Make an effort to attend training and games.
- Communicate any concerns you may have to the coach.
- Make sure the child has appropriate equipment/clothing/refreshments.
- Encourage FAIR PLAY at home and do not instil a "win at all costs" attitude in children.
- Be positive or be quiet, negative comments are counter productive.
- Be prepared to be asked to leave by officials or club personnel if behaviour is contrary to the definition of FAIR PLAY.

## Parents / Guardians should never:

- Insult players or club personnel.
- Make any approach to a coach during a match to question or criticise their team selection.
- Argue with, or shout abuse at officials and they should actively discourage children or young players from doing likewise.
- Suggest or encourage cheating, aggressive or "dirty" play.
- Place undue or inappropriate criticism on a player, causing the player unnecessary or unhealthy levels of stress.
- Behave with physical or verbal aggression towards another person (actually use force or threaten the use of force).
- Engage in any "harassment" type of behaviour.



## The Player and the Club

We understand and agree that a player signs for Greystones United AFC and not a specific team within the club and the team they play for will be determined by the club through its player assessment program. We will encourage the movement of a player between teams if recommended by the club to help their development .

Playing for Greystones United AFC, the player should undertake to:

- Play fairly, do their best and have fun.
- Make high standards of Fair Play the standard others want to follow.
- Respect opponents - they are not the enemy, they are partners in a sporting event.
- Shake hands before and after the match, whoever wins.
- Give opponents a hand if they are injured, put the ball out of play so they can get attention.
- Accept apologies from opponents when they are offered.
- Respect fellow team members and support them both when they do well and when things go wrong.
- Treat players from minority groups with the same respect you show other people.
- Be modest in victory and be gracious in defeat “BE A GOOD SPORT”.
- Approach the club’s Children’s Officer with any questions or concerns they might have.

Children should be encouraged not to:

- Cheat.
- Use violence, abusive language, or argue with the referee, officials, team mates or opponents.
- Bully.
- Tell lies about adults or other children.
- Spread rumours.
- Take banned substances to improve performance.
- Keep secrets about any person who may have caused them harm

For further information on this or any other concerns please go to [guaafc.ie](http://guaafc.ie)

