



Updated August 2025
Season 25/26

SALTIRE THISTLE FOOTBALL CLUB: MEMBER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

ENDORSED BY THE SALTIRE THISTLE FC COMMITTEE.

Saltire Thistle Football Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, officials, administrators and spectators associated with the club should show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of their own teammates and others. Therefore, all those associated with Saltire Thistle FC should comply with this Code of Conduct. This list is by no means exhaustive and should be used as a guide for players, supporters and officials of Saltire Thistle FC. To be available for selection and participate in Saltire Thistle FC events all members of Saltire Thistle FC are expected to:

1. Have ordered the appropriate level of membership, paid the appropriate membership fee (or made other arrangements) and completed the PAR-Q (Physical Activity Readiness Form). In doing so the members confirm that they are aware of and commit to follow the rules in the club's Constitution and Member's Code of Conduct
2. All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age (18+), race, creed, gender, disability, occupation, gender identity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, political persuasion or marital status or having or not having dependants, including opposition players, management and fans.
3. Attend club events at the stated meeting point, in a reasonable time and in condition to take part to the best of their ability, including suitable equipment. This includes the strict prohibition of any player being under the influence of alcohol or any other illicit substance. Any breach of this article will lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the club. Members should also refrain from smoking on or at the side of the pitch, including the use of electronic cigarettes or vapes.



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4. Pay their fee to take part in events before they start. The administration of the club is already a burden on the volunteered Committee and as such the players **MUST** ensure that payments are made before the event to prevent the need for reminders to be issued by the Committee. Should any player have any difficulty in paying any fees then they should ensure that they discuss the matter with a member of the Committee where they can offer advice and support while making sure that playing time is not un-duly restricted.
5. Play by the rules as laid down by the appropriate governing body, including observing the rules of any hired premises or facility.
6. Play within the spirit of the game, sportsmanship, integrity and fair play are absolute requirements of all members of Saltire Thistle. We have the significant responsibility to represent a community and must behave above and beyond what would normally be deemed reasonable. Any infractions of this principle or complaints received will immediately be investigated and lead to suspension from club activities and in the worst and repeat cases, expulsion from the team.
7. Refrain from arguing with officials. It's a pointless exercise that only stains the views people hold of the club and whom we represent. Only the captain may approach or otherwise engage in debate or discussion with a referee over contentious decisions. The club now operates a zero tolerance policy on arguing with or abusing referees. Any such incidents where a player is booked or red carded for this offence is likely to result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the club.
8. In all organized games and training sessions, endeavour to encourage your teammates in a positive and supportive manner. As a club we welcome a wide range of playing abilities and we need our members to help ensure a positive and enjoyable playing environment for all.



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9. Co-operation with your management team and team-mates is expected. Be that at matches, training or other club events.
10. In any team/club voting e.g. AGM, Player of the Match, Player of the Year etc, each individual is expected to vote fairly and without favouritism or discrimination.
11. Players should behave in a civilised and proper manner whilst representing the club, be this in matches, social events (official & unofficial) and through social media. This includes members refraining from discussing rival club support topics, including results and topical debates, on team communication channels such as WhatsApp.
12. Should Saltire Thistle FC receive any fines as a result of a player's poor on or off-field conduct, that player shall be responsible for payment of said fine. Any fine must be paid within 28 days of being notified by the club.
13. Any infractions of the above points may be dealt with by the team manager in the first instance however, all matters in relation to breaches will fall to the Committee to investigate and act accordingly in line with the Club's constitution.
14. For what are deemed continual or more serious club infractions by the manager, club member and/or committee member (e.g. potentially damaging to teammates or in any other way negatively influencing the club) may result in suspension and /or expulsion from the club.
15. Members must ensure all equipment and kit is returned to the designated Kit Manager for each event. Under no circumstances are kits to be taken home and separated from the club's Kit bags.
16. Members should be dedicated to Saltire Thistle Football Club and should they want to represent another team they must discuss and agree this with the Committee in the first instance. The Committee reserves the right to withdraw membership if they feel that this is in the best interests of the club particularly in order to prevent players being poached onto other teams.



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SALTIRE THISTLE FOOTBALL CLUB: MANAGER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. Be reasonable in your demands of players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
2. Teach your players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should evade, break or seek to gain an unfair advantage of
3. Ensure that equipment and facilities are appropriate and meet safety standards.
4. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
5. Have a zero tolerance approach to members being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs during matches or training sessions and aim to report any such incidents to the committee for further consideration or action.
6. Be aware of the role of the coach as an educator. As well as imparting knowledge and skills, promote desirable personal and social behaviours.



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7. Seek to keep abreast of changes in your sport; ensure that the information used is up to date, appropriate to the needs of players and takes account of the principles of growth and development.
8. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
9. All players and other participants deserve equal and fair feedback to help aid their performance, given in a manner sensitive to their needs.
10. Recognise players' rights to consult with other coaches and advisers. Cooperate fully with other specialists (for example, sports scientists, doctors and physiotherapists) and follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence play.
11. Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting activities, regardless of gender, age (18+), race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socio-economic status etc.
12. Encourage and facilitate players' independence and responsibility for their own behaviour, performance, decisions and actions.
13. Involve the players in decisions that affect them.
14. Begin a season with a specified performance related, success criteria to work towards throughout the season. At end of each season be willing to provide an end of year report in response to the said criteria given at the outset of the footballing season.
15. Operate a fair and logical team selection criteria for any given match based on the personnel available, desired result or club/team/manager's objective. Key factors in deciding squads and playing time is as follows:-

- i Attendance at Training



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- ii Effort given at Training
- iii Players desire to play in specific competitions and support of Away fixtures
- iv Attendance and Participation at Club matches
- v Attendance at other club functions
- vi Debt levels with the club and it being in line with Constitutional Requirements