

South East Region

SCOTTISH FA  
YOUTH FOOTBALL  
LIVE IT PLAY IT LOVE IT



TOUCHLINE BEHAVIOUR CAMPAIGN 2009

# Let them play!



SFA South East Region Partnership in partnership with:

East Lothian Soccer Sevens Development Association | East of Scotland Soccer Development Association  
| Lothian Bunnies Youth FA | Scottish Borders Junior FA | West Lothian Soccer Development Association |  
West Lothian Association of Youth Football Clubs | Edinburgh Secondary Schools FA | Edinburgh Primary  
Schools Association | Lothians Schools FA | SFF South East Region Girls Leagues

## 1. South East Touchline Behaviour Campaign 2009/10

### Introduction and Background

Imagine the scene now, it is a Saturday or Sunday at the local football park in your area and the touchlines are full of spectators but the air is silent, coaches are able to talk to their players and players talked to their teammates, but there was almost no interaction between the players and those on the sidelines.

Are we dreaming? This is certainly not a common reality on the sidelines at Scottish grassroots football games and Scotland faces a number of challenging social issues which are now overflowing into youth football such as;

- Continual shouting and instruction from the sidelines
- Violence on the touchline
- 'win at all costs' mentality
- Many children, coaches and parents having negative experiences of youth football

As well as several other issues, together, these factors contribute to increasing numbers of young players, parents and coaches having bad experiences. Many drop out or leave as a result and are deprived of their opportunity to learn those vital character building lessons which football can provide.



## **AC OXGANGS FOOTBALL CLUB**

### **CODES OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS, SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIALS**

AC Oxfangs Football Club fully supports the codes of conduct as introduced by the Scottish Football Association.

#### **COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Allow all players, no matter their level of ability, the opportunity to play
- Respect the rights, dignity & worth of every player and treat everyone equally within the context of football.
- Always pursue fair play
- Prohibit use of camcorders and cameras unless parental consent has been provided
- Place safety and well-being of the player above the development of performance
- Be aware of the SFA's and the Club's Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures
- Ensure that coaching sessions are enjoyable, well-structured and focus on developing skills, decision making and a general understanding of the game
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with players based on mutual trust and respect
- Encourage players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure that sessions and games are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual
- Must consistently display high standards of appearance and behaviour
- Know where to find appropriate first-aid
- Hold a current membership list and have a register available at all activities.

#### **PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Play by the rules – the rules of your club and the laws of the game.
- Never argue with a referee or other official – without these people you can't play football.
- Control your temper - verbal abuse of officials and abusing other players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games.
- Be a team player – It's a team game, treat it that way.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated – fairly.
- Co-operate with your coach, the referees and team-mates.
- Play for your own enjoyment & to improve your skills.
- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your coach, team-mates and family if you do – & many such comments are actually now illegal.

#### **PARENTS & SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses – supporters are there to support not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, referees and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time.
- Never publicly criticise referees – raise personal concerns with club officials in private.
- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability – you'll let down your family and yourself if you do – & many such comments are actually now illegal.



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