



Ashington Town FC – Code of Conduct / Respect Policy

1. Purpose

To set out clear standards of behaviour for all players, coaches, volunteers, parents, and spectators, promoting respect, fair play, and positive experiences in all Club activities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

All players at all levels of the Club
All coaches, volunteers, and staff
Parents, guardians, and spectators at training, matches, and Club events
All sponsors and donors associated with the Club

3. Principles

All participants have the right to enjoy football in a safe and positive environment.
Respect and sportsmanship are expected at all times.
Bullying, verbal abuse, harassment, or discriminatory behaviour is not tolerated.
All Club members must follow FA Respect and FA Codes of Conduct.
Financial or sponsorship relationships between individuals must always be transparent and in line with the Club's Player Sponsorship Policy.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Committee:

Promote, monitor, and enforce this policy.
Review and update annually.
Ensure compliance with safeguarding and sponsorship policies.

Coaches & Volunteers:

Model positive behaviour at all times.
Encourage teamwork, inclusion, and respect for officials and opponents.
Must not personally sponsor or financially support individual players to avoid conflicts of interest and maintain safeguarding standards.

Players:

Follow rules of the game, respect coaches, referees, teammates, and opposition.
Maintain self-control during matches and training.

Parents & Spectators:

Support all participants, not just their own child.
Respect referees, coaches, volunteers, and opponents.
Direct any offers of player sponsorship through the Club, not directly to coaches or team staff.

5. Procedures / Guidelines

Training & Matches:

Positive reinforcement and constructive feedback are encouraged.
Unacceptable behaviour addressed immediately by coaches or Committee.

Disciplinary Measures:

Breaches are reported to the Committee and handled under the Club Disciplinary & Appeals Policy.
Sanctions may include warnings, suspension from sessions or matches, or expulsion from the Club.
Breaches of the Player Sponsorship Policy may also be investigated under this Code if they involve misconduct or safeguarding concerns.

Digital Acceptance:

All new members, parents, and volunteers agree to this Code of Conduct via TeamFeePay during registration.
Agreement is timestamped and recorded as formal acceptance.
Policies remain accessible online at all times for reference.

6. Education & Awareness

All new members, parents, and volunteers are informed of the Code of Conduct during registration.
Coaches receive training in positive management and FA Respect principles.
Safeguarding training for coaches includes awareness of the Player Sponsorship Policy and managing financial boundaries.

7. Monitoring & Review

Committee reviews implementation annually.
Updates made in line with FA guidance or incidents.
Sponsorship-related issues will be reviewed alongside annual safeguarding audits.

8. Record Keeping

Records of behavioural incidents and actions taken maintained securely for a minimum of 6 years.
Digital acceptance records in TeamFeePay retained for verification.
Sponsorship and financial assistance records retained securely by the Treasurer and Welfare Officer in line with data protection requirements.

9. Sign-off

This policy has been approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Millar', with a stylized, flowing script.

Adam Millar
Club Secretary
On behalf of
Ashington Town FC Committee

14th October 2025