



Hereford Lads Club Code of Conduct and Club Information for Players, Parents, Spectators & Coaches



A very warm welcome to Hereford Lads Club. We are delighted that you have chosen to join our great club.

Purpose

This document outlines necessary information for parents. Our code of conduct is designed to create a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment for players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators involved in Hereford Lads Club. Adherence to this document promotes respect sportsmanship, and development of positive values in football.

Club Information for Players, Parents, Spectators & Coaches

- Hereford Lads Club offers training and matches with FA qualified coaches who are trained in both First Aid and Safeguarding.
- The club holds subsidised events at Easter, Halloween and Christmas along with other community events to further enhance your child's enjoyment of being part of the Club.
- Additionally, there is our end of Season Tournaments and separate Presentation Day where we celebrate all that is good about football and the club to sign the season off.
- Most of our coaches and club management team have started their journey with Lads Club by being a parent/guardian in the first instance. If you wish to become further involved with the club by becoming a coach (we will pay for it) or indeed part of the social committee offering your help at events several times a year, please let your team manager know and he or she will advise you of who to talk to. We are all volunteers at Lads Club and additional help is always appreciated.
- There are other ways to get involved with Lads Club too. Such as joining our 100 Club which offers reduced prices on food and drink, plus a chance to win £120, £50 or £30 every month. For more information please ask at Lads Club bar.
- The Club House is open most weeknights during training and at weekends during matches.
- Club Merchandise can be ordered through our club shop.
- Sponsorship is also another option to become a part of the Lads Club Family. We are all extremely busy in our day to day lives and maybe you just haven't got the time to invest in the club, but you could always sponsor your teams kit by having your company logo emblazoned on their match day kit.
- We are heavily engaged in social media where regular updates can be found on Facebook.
 - You can follow the Junior Girls, "Girls at Hereford Lads Club FC"
 - The Junior Boys, "Hereford Lads Club Juniors"
- Finally, we just wanted to let you know about our Player Pathway. Most of our players join the club at the age of 7 to play in the Under 7 League or even earlier if they have joined us at our Future Stars sessions for 4-7 year olds. They then continue through the age groups finishing at Under 16. However, for those wishing to further their footballing career into adult football, male or female, we have our established Senior Ladies team and next season the club is looking to set up a Pathway for our boys. Hereford Lads Club can offer you a footballing journey for many years as a player, as a coach or as a Volunteer.

On-Line Membership and our new Digital App

We now use a new tool (**360 Player**) to help manage our payment and registration process as well as a one stop shop for all communications within the club keeping you better informed of all things related to the club as well as advertising the community events we organise too. This has streamlined our process of invoicing and registration allowing us more time to focus on the childrens development and experiences at the club.

To help cover the cost of League Registrations, insurances and equipment, we charge a one off £20 signing on fee, and offer in most instances a subscription service of £26 a month over 12 months to cover match fees and training.

League registration

Once you have completed the registration form and embedded subscription, we will then use this information to formally register your son(s), daughter(s) in the FA system. At that point they officially become affiliated to our club.

Under the Data Protection Act 2018, we have a legal duty to protect any personal information we collect from you. The information you supply will only be used by Hereford Lads Club for administrative purposes within the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018. We will not supply it to third parties. The information contained in this document is private and confidential. A copy of our Privacy Statement is available on the Club Website, www.herefordladsclub.co.uk

This membership form remains the property of the Hereford Lads Club
Registered CIO Charity Number 1192186

Hereford Lads Club Code of Conduct

Parent/Guardians, spectators, players, coaches and volunteers are asked to read and comply with the club's code of conduct before completing the on-line registration document. It is important that all participants understand their roles and responsibilities and understand the consequences of failing to comply.

Hereford Lads Club have discussed and agreed the Code of Conduct for all members, including Players, Managers, Coaches, volunteers and Parents, in line with Football Association (FA) guidance. Please take the content in the right spirit and be supportive in all aspects of the club. Primarily, the children of the club are our most important asset, and all our efforts revolve around them.

Remember, football is a time for players to develop their technical, physical, tactical, and social skills. Winning isn't everything. Everyone needs to play their part and observe the FA's Respect Code of Conduct.

Our club has three main responsibilities around the Codes:

1. To ensure everyone within the club (club members), whatever their role, has read, agreed and signed up to the Code of Code, read our policies and procedures and understands the actions which could be taken if these are broken. The inclusion of the Code of Conduct and policies and procedures into the registration process of club members ensures that all playing members can be made aware of their responsibilities at the point of joining the club.
2. To review and retain the Code of conduct so that they can be referred to if an individual's behaviour becomes unacceptable.
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks the Code of Conduct or Policies.

Code of Conduct for Players

On and off the field, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability and for the benefit of my team
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, dive, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/team manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Be gracious in victory and defeat – I will shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Understand that a coach/team manager must do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/ or all the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or the FA: I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Issued with a verbal or written warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games or training sessions
- Required to leave by the club, suspended, receive a fine by the county FA or have my club membership removed.

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any physical assault on a Match Official may result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

Code of Conduct for Spectators/Parents/Carers

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Support positively. When players make a mistake offer them encouragement not criticism
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or the FA: I may be:

- Issued with a verbal or written warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games or training sessions
- Required to leave by the club, suspended, receive a fine by the county FA or have my club membership removed.
- Be referred to the Authorities

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any physical assault on a Match Official will result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. On and off the field, I will:

- Use my position to set a positive example for the young people I am responsible for
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Be gracious in victory and defeat When working with players

I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA: I may:

- Issued with a verbal or written warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games or training sessions

- Required to leave by the club, suspended, receive a fine by the county FA or have my club membership removed.
- Be referred to the Authorities

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any physical assault on a Match Official will result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

Code of Conduct for Adult Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere to the Laws of The Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote Fair Play
- Always respect the match official's decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manager with respect
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Win or lose with dignity. Shake hands with the opposing team and the referee at the end of every game

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or the FA: I may:

- Be required to apologise to team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Issued with a verbal or written warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games or training sessions
- Required to leave by the club, suspended, receive a fine by the county FA or have my club membership removed.
- Be referred to the Authorities

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
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Under the FA Disciplinary Code, Clubs can be sanctioned/fined for the behaviour of players, parents, spectators, and club officials. Lads Club will investigate any breaches of the FA Disciplinary Code and where proven that an individual has brought the club into disrepute Lads Club will recover the fine amount from the individual and consider a club sanction thereafter. Please refer to our Welfare and disciplinary process further information.

Policies and Procedures

In grassroots football, all participants, including players, coaches, parents, and volunteers, have a responsibility to follow the policies and procedures outlined on our website. These rules are in place to ensure a safe, fair, and respectful environment for everyone involved in the game. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in sanctions, which can include a formal warning, suspension, or even expulsion from the club or organization, depending on the severity of the breach. By upholding these standards, we can work together to promote the values and integrity of grassroots football. Please ensure you have read through our policies which are available via the club website: www.herefordladsclub.co.uk

Reporting Incidents and Welfare Concerns

Hereford Lads Club and Hereford Development Centre Team Officials, Volunteers and Parents have responsibilities as set out in the FA Code of Conduct as well as the Clubs own Code of Conduct. Any concerns should be submitted using the [Incident Report Form](#). Once the incident form has been received a review will be conducted by Hereford Lads Club Welfare officers, who will then take necessary actions and follow the steps outlined in the Welfare and Disciplinary process which can be found in our policies section on our websites www.herefordladsclub.co.uk

Any disputes should be brought to the Committee; arguments and fallouts must not be conducted in front of the children. All club members must always show themselves to be ambassadors for the club and so set a good example to the children. We actively encourage all club members to collaborate to form a good partnership.

We want this Club to be something to be very proud of, and to ensure that visitors to the Club leave impressed at what we can achieve and how we as a Club conduct ourselves.

Social Media and Team WhatsApp Groups

Players/Parents/Spectators/Coaches/Managers/Committee Members:

- Should only use social media networks in a safe, respectful and positive manner between teammates, other teams and the coach/manager
- MUST NOT upload, post, host, text or email things that are hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening or discriminating as this would go against the clubs Code of Conduct and could also be against the law.
- Refrain from taking photos without prior consent.
- Refrain from uploading images to any social media network without all persons' prior consent.
- Coaches/managers should not contact players using any form of social media.
- Players should not use internet, web-based, phones or any other method of communication to coaches regarding non-football personal matters
- Players should not contact/try to add or accept any invitations on any social network site from adult coaches/managers as this is strictly prohibited.
- Should not delete inappropriate text, emails or messages sent to you as they may be required as a form of evidence for a subsequent investigation.
- Must not post anything on social media networks or in WhatsApp group chats that may bring the club in disrepute.
- A club Welfare Officer is to remain in all team chats.
- Any official statement will need to be approved by Hereford Lads Club before release.

Any inappropriate usage of social media or a breach of any points raised above will be investigated fully and may result in notification to the HFA, in more serious cases the Police and the club may also issue a sanction outlined in the welfare and disciplinary process.

Points of Contact

Hereford Lads Club

Chris Price- Chairman- chairman.herefordladsclub@gmail.com

Oliver Williams- Vice Chairman- vicechairman.herefordladsclub@gmail.com

Marcus Jenkins- Treasurer- treasurer.herefordladsclub@gmail.com

Sandra Mifflin-Club Secretary- secretary.herefordladsclub@gmail.com

Katrina Williams- Lead Welfare Officer- welfare.herefordladsclub@gmail.com

Kathrine Rolfe- Welfare Officer- welfare.herefordladsclub@gmail.com