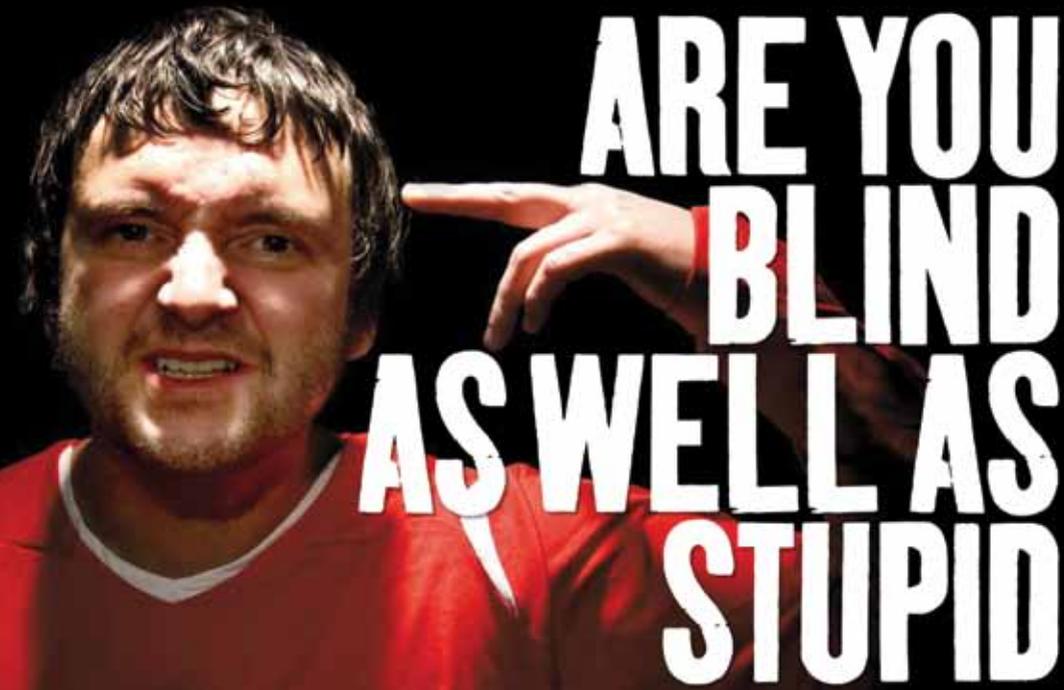




Respect

# Football Leagues – adult and youth

Your guide to The FA's Respect programme



ARE YOU  
BLIND  
AS WELL AS  
STUPID

It's not big and it's not clever.  
If you physically assault a ref, you  
will be banned from playing and  
could face criminal charges.

**Are you losing it?**

**Respect** 

[TheFA.com/respect](http://TheFA.com/respect)



## Why football needs Respect

The FA is responding to concern from across the game to tackle unacceptable behaviour in football. The FA is taking action in a variety of ways, and one of the main actions is the **Respect** programme. It is not a short-lived campaign but on ongoing commitment to improve behaviour in football. It won't be tackled in the short term as we all have a lot of work to do over the seasons ahead.

Leagues are the foundation stone for football in England and provide the organisation which allows thousands of teams to play our great game. The **Respect** programme will assist leagues in a practical way by improving the quality and enjoyment of games and signposting to clubs, players and referees those leagues where the game is more likely to be fair, safe and enjoyable.

A commitment to the **Respect** programme should lead to;

- Teams and players being attracted to **Respect** Leagues.
- Enhanced retention of existing clubs
- An enhanced and less hostile environment in which the game can take place
- Better behaved players and spectators
- More Referees – less club referees
- An enhanced reputation for local football

**Respect** needs your League, its clubs and players to play its part. Together, we can make a huge difference.



Respect



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## What is Respect?

**Respect** is the collective responsibility of everyone in football to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place.

It is the behavioural code for football.

**Respect** is a continuous FA programme, not a one-off initiative.

### What do we want to achieve with Respect?

1. There will be a base of registered referees in England sufficient for the demands of the game at every level.
2. There will be zero tolerance for assaults on referees.
3. There will be an improvement in on-field player discipline, particularly in the area of dissent to referees and in competitions that have an established record of poor discipline.
4. There will be a 'step change' in youth football on what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour from parents, spectators and coaches.
5. We will work with coaches to create an enjoyable learning environment for children's football

The most important message of the **Respect** programme is that real and lasting change will come about not through the intervention of the Football Authorities but from everyone in football taking collective responsibility to promote what is good in the game and deal with that which diminishes it.





Respect

## How do we achieve Respect?

Leagues are in a pivotal position to promote **Respect** and convince clubs of its value.

In essence, the **Respect** programme includes four practical steps to improve behaviour – on the pitch and on the sidelines:

**Step 1:** Codes of Conduct

**Step 2:** Manage the match day environment

**Step 3:** Captain takes responsibility

**Step 4:** Referee manages the game

All these Steps are covered in more detail later in this document.



# How to introduce Respect into your league

Fundamentally, we need you to accept and understand the four steps of **Respect** – and then impart them to your clubs, so in turn they convey them to their players, particularly team captains.

All four steps are covered in detail later in this document of this booklet.

To get all your clubs on board, we suggest the following actions:

## 1: Host an information session(s) for clubs

You will need to hold one or more club information sessions, where you can explain **Respect** and the role clubs are expected to play.

The FA will provide you with the required number of Club Information Packs to distribute.

Through the clubs, captains will need to be briefed on their enhanced role, so please encourage individual team captains to be present to save time.

It's vital that through you, clubs are absolutely clear about what their involvement entails.

Overall, the key points to convey to clubs at the information session(s) are:

- Why we need **Respect**?
- The four steps to **Respect**
- Agreeing the actions a club can take – and those they should refer to the league or County FA

Once you have held this session and the clubs are clear, you are ready to kick-off the **Respect** programme in your league.

## 2: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

There will undoubtedly be teething problems with some aspects of the **Respect** programme, and it will be refined over time. But we really need your help and feedback to make improvements.

If your league already uses The FA's Full-Time league administration system, you will be contacted with details of monitoring how well the **Respect** steps are working in practice.

Referees appointed to your league will also be asked to give feedback on behaviour to help us monitor whether **Respect** is making a positive difference and what specific aspects are working.

If your league does not currently use 'Full-Time', we encourage you to come on board. It's free and enables league secretaries to create league and cup competitions in seconds, using wizard-based technology and guides you through the entire process of league set-up, fixture scheduling and the inputting player details.

In turn, club secretaries, managers and players can view league tables, fixture results and a range of player statistics. It dramatically reduces the workload of league secretaries and updates tables and fixtures in seconds.

Leagues also have a role in overseeing the behaviour of their participating clubs. The use of league observers at games can act as a significant deterrent to those with a poor disciplinary record and provide important evidence to the CFA in cases of misconduct.

To see how 'Full-Time' works, visit <http://full-time.thefa.com>

## 3: Promoting education

Central to The FA's commitment to the **Respect** programme is the need to build upon the physical measures – such as the Codes of Conduct and Designated Spectators' Area – with an education programme. For instance the FA's **Respect** Parents Guide is now available free of charge online. An On Line **Respect** resource for Referees will be available from December 2010.

## 4: Imposing sanctions

As you'll see later, the **Respect** Codes of Conduct identify a range of sanctions which can be applied in the event of misconduct or poor behaviour.

Whilst your County FA or The FA will deal with reported misconduct, leagues and their member clubs also have a role to play in educating everyone as to what is – and what isn't – acceptable behaviour, and taking action when the Codes are broken.

It's important for your member clubs to be clear about what it should expect from its members and to educate people when guidance is required. Should this guidance be disregarded then the management of a league has the right to implement sanctions against offenders. Such action should:

- Be fair and consistent – treating people in the same way regardless of their position in the club
- Follow a process which allows people to know when they have broken a Code of Conduct and provides them with the opportunity to amend their behaviour and conduct
- Be proportionate to the offence
- Be progressively more serious for repeat offenders



Respect

If you have any questions on any of the above, please contact your County FA's **Respect** Lead Officer who has been fully briefed on every aspect of the **Respect** programme.

### 5. Referring misconduct cases to your County FA

Changes to the FA Standard Code in 2008/09 reaffirmed that the responsibility to progress disciplinary action rest with the Football Association and/or County Football Association and this applies across the game at all levels. This does not mean that leagues do not have a role to play. Leagues must ensure that they collate evidence of poor behaviour that has been sent to them and pass this onto the appropriate County FA

Leagues can best support the implementation of **Respect** by ensuring that all cases of misconduct are referred to the County FA for them to deal with in a fair and consistent manner with procedures that apply across all of football.

There is sometimes a misapprehension that the County FA can only take into account the report of a referee but this is not the case as a submission by any participant (including a League Official) can also be accepted as the basis to progress disciplinary action against a club or individual.

Leagues retain the ability to call clubs with poor behaviour to account for their disciplinary record – in some cases this will be triggered by a club hitting a threshold of disciplinary points as monitored by the CFA. Clubs should be provided with the opportunity to explain their conduct and improve the situation, but ultimately should discipline continue to deteriorate a League can propose to its members at an AGM or EGM that a club not be accepted into membership for the following season. Your CFA can advise you on how best to conduct this process if required.

In serious cases of misconduct there is an assurance that the County FA will consider the representations of the League promptly.

Leagues also have a role to play in highlighting teams that have a good record of behaviour. Many leagues operate marking systems for their clubs, publishing Fair Play Tables and rewarding those with the best records with cash or equipment prizes. Some schemes reward teams with consistently high marks with free affiliation for the next season.



## The first two seasons of Respect

Throughout the first two seasons of **Respect** its impact was monitored. The following are the headline findings:

- Prior to the launch of the **Respect** programme in 2008 the number of affiliated referees had fallen to all time low. In 2010 there were 26,692 registered referees, an increase of 7.4% increase compared to 24,852 for the same period in 2009.
- The number of trainee referees at level 9 is 5598 compared to 4111 in 2009 - an increase of 36.2%.
- The **Respect** programme has made a contribution to creating an environment where referees, feel better supported and are more likely to continue their involvement. In a survey of 3,500 referees in November 2009, 35 % of respondents reported that they were more likely to remain a referee and 39 % reported that they received less abusive behaviour from players as a result of **Respect** programme.
- When the **Respect** programme was launched referees were encouraged to submit '**Respect**' marks after a fixture. In 2009/10 nearly 10,000 reports were entered. Encouragingly the average **Respect** marks (out of a possible 5) ranged from 4.1 to 4.7.
- In 2008/09 The FA received reports of 534 referees having been assaulted (ranging from a referee having a card knocked out of their hand to serious assault). In 2009/10 the figures for assaults on a match officials (all categories) show a 13 % decrease from last season (a reduction to 466 cases from 534 cases in 08/09).
- One of the major themes of the **Respect** programme has been its attempt to deal with overtly aggressive coaches and pushy parents in youth football. The **Respect** programme has increased awareness of the problem. The use of Codes of Conduct, designated spectator areas and pre-match handshakes is now widespread. More importantly there is greater peer pressure on coaches or parents that do not behave in an acceptable way.
- Over 500 youth leagues have committed themselves to the programme. Despite this work a significant problem still exists with the key finding of the 2010 CFA Online Grass Roots Survey of 12,000 respondents, across all regions and all roles in football identified as: '*the abuse of young players by spectators*'.
- In the professional game player behaviour has improved. Overall in the Premier League, Football League, Football Conference, Isthmian, Northern and Southern Leagues there was a 6 % decline in dissent cautions. Dissent cautions in 10 out of 16 of the senior Leagues were down compared to 2008/09 levels.
- There was a 23% reduction in dissent cautions in the Premier League (76 compared to 99). In 1 in 5 games in the PL there was a caution for dissent. The total was down from previous two seasons.
- Dissent cautions were down by 31% in the Championship (99 compared to 144).
- There were only two charges of harassment of match official in the PL, FL and Football Conference but mass confrontation charges rose from 4 to 43 charges this season.
- In the amateur game dissent cautions have reduced by 3%, misconduct 3% and dismissals by 2% .
- Disappointingly the number of matches abandoned due to misconduct in 2009/10 was 947 an increase of 7 % on the 2008/09 figure.
- An online **Respect** module has now become a pre-course requirement for those undertaking the FA Level 1 coaching qualification. Since its introduction in May 2009, nearly 17,000 Coaches have undertaken this module.
- 752 Leagues have signed up for **Respect** (out of 1200) although implementation of the **Respect** measures is at different stages across those leagues.
- 40 % of the 12,000 respondents of the CFA's Grassroots Survey claim that their experience of football has improved with '**Respect**' and that they experienced 66 % less discrimination or touchline abuse.
- Based on the CFA Grassroots survey The **Respect** measures considered to have the most practical value are Referees being encouraged to deal with dissent , use of Codes of Conduct, use of captains to assist on field management and the use of designated spectator areas.

The **Respect** programme is an ongoing commitment by the football authorities to tackle poor behaviour. There is still much work to be done but we will seek to improve this position season on season.

# The four steps to Respect

## Step 1:

### Codes of Conduct

Codes of Conduct aren't new and are already in use by some clubs (this is mandatory for Charter Standard Clubs). Some are successful, some are forgotten and simply not acted upon.

**Respect** brings them to life.

How? By supporting and strengthening the Codes of Conduct with possible consequences. There is little point in having a set of rules if no action is taken if and when they're broken.

There are **Respect** Codes of Conduct for:

- Young Players
- Adult Players
- Spectators and Parents/Carers
- Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials
- Match Officials

Each Code explains that actions can be taken if the Code is broken. Although your County FA or The FA will deal with cases of reported misconduct, leagues also have a role to play in dealing with poor behaviour from players, officials or spectators. Sanctions can range from, official warnings, suspension of fixtures or the ultimate sanction of recommending the exclusion of a club from a league..

Leagues have an important role to play in emphasising to clubs the role that they have in managing their own membership. Ultimately a club can react far quicker than a League or CFA in dealing with a problematic member.

For further guidance on these specific actions speak directly to your league or County FA.

All the **Respect** Codes of Conduct can be downloaded from [www.TheFA.com/Respect](http://www.TheFA.com/Respect)

### Codes of Conduct:

#### A member clubs' responsibilities:

Each **Respect** Code of Conduct explains that action can and will be taken if the Code is broken.

Clubs have 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 their relevant Code – and understood the actions which could be taken if Codes are broken.
2. To collect and retain the signed agreement forms at the foot of each Code. League's can take steps to ensure the collection of the codes by conducting 'spot checks' amongst its membership.
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks 'their' Code.

### Clubs which already have Codes of Conduct:

If your league contains FA Charter Standard Club(s), and/or some clubs already have their own club Codes of Conduct, you should advise them to adopt the new **Respect** Codes or revise their existing codes to include any elements they may have missed.

You should suggest to clubs that they should display the **Respect** Codes of Conduct in dressing rooms, pavilions and club houses and where appropriate, displaying the Spectator Code publicly or handing it down the sidelines. **Respect** adverts are also available for inclusion in League or club handbooks and programmes

It's important to ensure that through your members clubs, their own members (players, coaches, club officials etc) understand and appreciate what can happen if Codes are broken. That way, there should be no subsequent debate because they didn't understand the consequences of breaking a Code.

## Step 2:

### Managing the Match Day Environment

Sometimes the behaviour of spectators and team officials can have a negative impact on the game itself. **Respect** aims to create a playing environment which is fair, safe and enjoyable. This can be achieved by;

- Clearly identifying to players, spectators and team officials the behaviour that is appropriate. This is why the codes of conduct are important
- If you are the home club there is a value in displaying the club's code of conduct - visible to both home and visiting participants. This could be in the changing room, pavilion or even on a laminated card that can be passed down a line of spectators
- Signage – if the facility allows the display of a **Respect** banner or sign this can establish to all participants a club's commitment to the **Respect** programme.
- The creation of designated areas for spectators is an important element of **Respect** particularly in Youth football. If games in an open age league attract supporters on the touchline then the following detail on the introduction of designated spectator areas will be of interest. If however your games are watched by few people other than the teams themselves you may be better focusing your attention on the other **Respect** measures.

**Designated Spectators' Areas** can be marked by an additional line, the use of cones, a roped-off area or use of a temporary spectators' barrier.

The areas literally draw the line which spectators should not cross. Research has shown it to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials.

The ideal arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on the opposite side of the pitch to club officials (manager/coaches etc) for spectators to stand behind. This allows the manager/coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players can better distinguish the advice from their team officials.

The Designated Spectators' Area should start two metres from the touchline on both sides of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. This means no-one should be watching from behind the goals. It is recognised however that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this set up in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

You may prefer an alternative form of marking a Designated Spectators' Area, but you must ensure this is safe for both the spectators and the players.

The FA strongly recommends you obtain formal agreement from the facility/pitch provider about which method of marking is most suitable for the pitch, before beginning any work or buying any new equipment.

The safety of the players, officials and spectators is paramount.

To help implement the Designated Spectators' Area, The FA has endorsed a **Respect** Barrier Kit which is available from [www.Touchlinelogos.com](http://www.Touchlinelogos.com)

Should a club fail to make acceptable arrangements for a Designated Spectators' Area, a League may consider issuing a sanction against them. This should be fair and proportionate – perhaps starting with a warning by the League. The absence of a Designated Spectators' Area should not result in the cancellation or abandonment of a game.

### Step 3:

#### **Captain takes responsibility**

Often problems start at matches when individual players are abusive towards the referee, which escalates into several players confronting the referee at the same time – then it's anarchy.

**Respect** aims to stop this cycle before it starts. Only the captain can challenge decisions made by the referee and the captain needs to manage his/her team to ensure that this is always observed.

#### **The advice to Captains is;**

To promote **Respect** the referee will work with you, as the team captain, to manage the players and the game effectively.

Even if you are some way away from an incident when the referee feels he/she needs you involved in a discussion with a player, the referee will call you over. This will ensure that, as the team captain, you remain the point of contact for the referee.

The type of behaviour which often gives rise to problems in matches, and where captains and referees need to work together, can be described as 'harassment and challenging behaviour towards the referee'.

As a captain, you have no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game, but you do have a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of your team.

Here are some examples of each type of behaviour:

#### **Harassment:**

- Running towards the referee in an aggressive manner.
- Players surrounding the referee to protest a decision.
- Repeatedly asking questions about decisions in an attempt to influence the referee or undermine his/her responsibilities.

#### **Challenging:**

- Passing comment to other players about a referee's decision-making.
- Repeatedly moaning at the referee about decisions.
- Gestures that obviously are made in a derogatory manner, such as a shaking of the head or waving of the hand.

#### **Captains have been asked to:**

- Ensure they wear a **Respect** captain's armband. These will be provided by your league to your club.
- Together with the opposition captain, make themselves known to the referee before the game. He/she will ask if the captains if they are clear about your responsibilities.
- Ensure all players understand what they can/cannot do in relation to the referee and what is meant by 'unwanted behaviour'. No-one's trying to curb enthusiasm - just instil more discipline. This can only benefit the specific match – and football.
- Ensure vice-captains (who should be appointed one if there isn't one) is aware of these rules, in case captains are unavailable for a game, or have to leave the field.
- Ensure every player in the team has signed the **Respect** Code of Conduct.
- Visit [www.TheFA.com/Respect](http://www.TheFA.com/Respect) for further updates and tips.



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### Captains in children's football

- In some cases a youth team may not have an individual that is mature enough to take on this enhanced captaincy role. In such cases a common sense approach should be taken which may involve the Referee working with a team manager rather than an on field captain.

#### Step 4:

#### Referee manages the game

There is a separate **Respect** information booklet for referees, which incorporates the following main information in relation to the above:

As the referee, you are expected to work with the team captains to manage the players and the game effectively. You must control the game by applying the Laws of the Game and deal firmly with any open show of dissent by players'. (e.g. not move away from the incident, but stay and deal with it).

While recognising that players may on occasions make an appeal for a decision (e.g. a throw-in, corner or goal-kick), it is important you distinguish these from an act of dissent which should be punished with a caution.

You should use a stepped approach, where appropriate, to managing players:

1. Free-kick.
2. Free-kick with quiet word.
3. Free-kick with public admonishment (this is the time referees should consider using the captain to visibly get the message across).
4. Yellow card.

The stepped approach does not negate the fact that as the referee, you have the authority within the Laws of the Game to issue disciplinary sanctions without recourse to the captain(s), including issuing a yellow or red card where the Laws require it.

Even if the captain is some distance from an incident, but you feel you need him/her involved in a discussion with a player, you should call the captain over. This will ensure the captain remains your point of contact during the game.

These guidelines are an additional preventative/supportive tool for referees to manage games effectively. The key is for referees to use captains in a more visible way.

## Welfare Officers and the Respect programme

Safeguarding children is an integral aspect of the **Respect** programme. It's about raising awareness that bullying, verbal, emotional and physical abuse will not be tolerated in football.

League and Club Welfare Officers play a key role in this safeguarding work. From season 2010/2011 The Football Association requires all leagues and clubs with youth teams to have a named Welfare Officer with an 'accepted' CRB via The FA CRB Unit and have attended The FA Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer workshops.

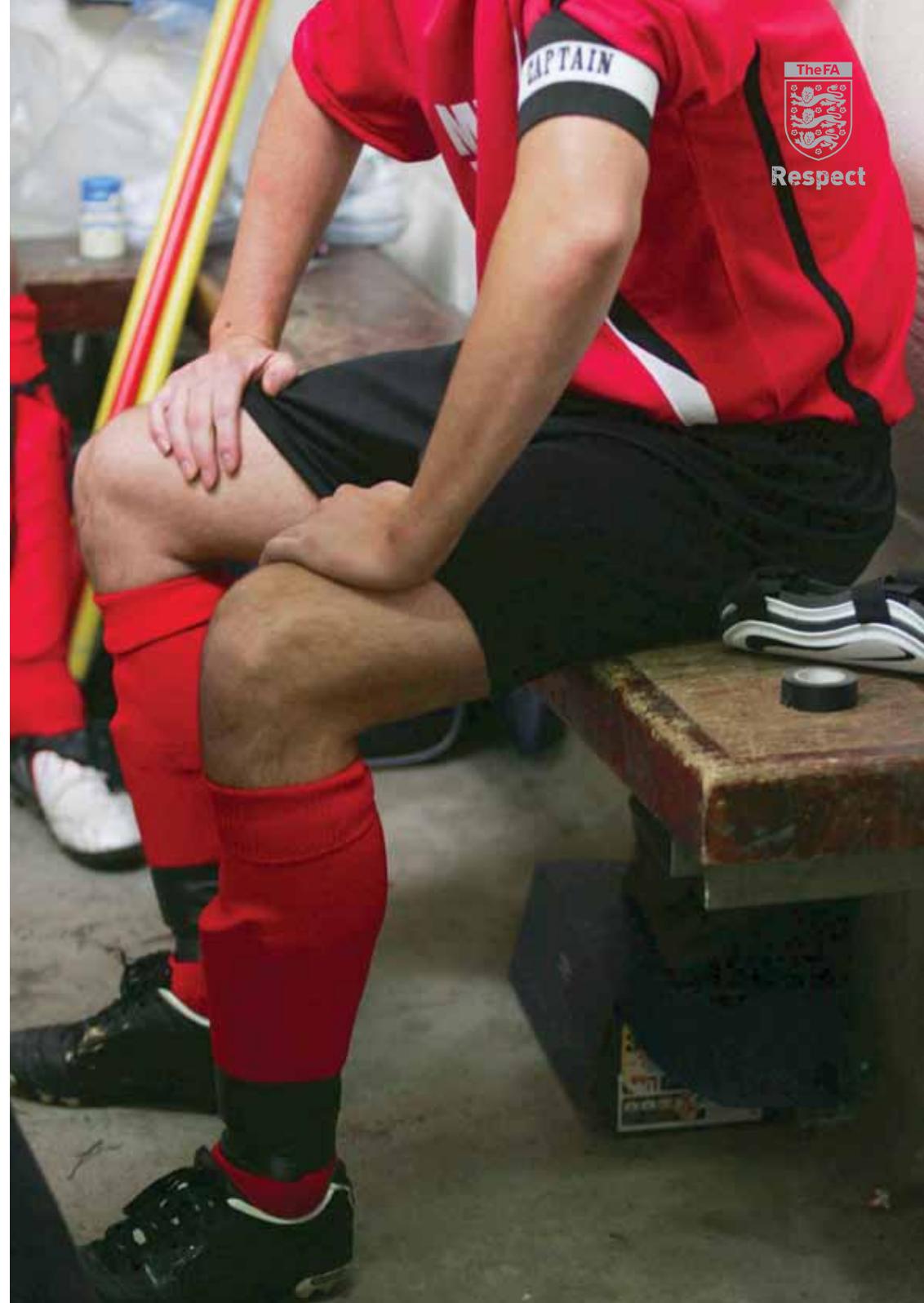
League and Club Welfare Officers should contact their County Welfare Officer to find out about opportunities for Welfare Officer training and meetings.

**Respect** is all about creating a fun and safe environment, there are specific ways in which League and Club Welfare Officers can assist the programme's implementation.

The **League Welfare Officer** should:

- Promote the **Respect** programme as part of measures to safeguard children in the league.
- Attend the **Respect** club information session run by the league.
- Ensure Club Welfare Officers are familiar with the **Respect** programme.
- Monitor behaviour in the league and feedback to The County FA.
- Ensure the **Respect** Codes of Conduct are distributed and used.
- Encourage Club Welfare Officers to undertake the online FA **Respect** Parents' Guide.

For further information on the role of Welfare Officers please go to [www.TheFA.com/FootballSafe](http://www.TheFA.com/FootballSafe)





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## What makes a Respect League?

Since the launch of the **Respect** programme in 2008 over 750 leagues have identified their wish to support the **Respect** programme. This means that these leagues are working towards fulfilling the following criteria;

- Commitment - The League should have formally committed to the **Respect** programme and provided briefing to its member clubs.
- Referees - Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a **Respect** briefing offered by the FA/CFA, League or online (from December 2010).
- Codes of Conduct - All players and club officials should have signed the FA's **Respect** Codes of Conduct and these should be produced if so requested by the league. The codes should be incorporated into the player registration process.
- Role of the Captains - The participating clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a team captain designated with a captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates.
- A fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment - prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the '**Respect**' handshake and/ or participating teams to offer 'handshakes to the opposing team after the match.
- Designated Spectator Areas – Youth league should incorporate into its rules a requirement that each home club shall make arrangements for the provision of designated areas for spectators. There is no requirement for Open Age Leagues to employ the use of designated spectator areas unless it provides a practical solution to problems encountered with spectators.
- Good practice – Leagues should be encouraged to set their own disciplinary targets. Leagues should also operate club marking schemes and have an award system for clubs that demonstrate consistently higher standards of behaviour.



Respect



## Respect Good Practice

There is a growing body of good practice from leagues, clubs and individuals that have led the way in tackling poor behaviour and promoting **Respect** in the game. In May 2010 at the FA Cup Final Prince William presented the first ever **Respect** and Fair Play awards to those that are making a difference. The winners were;

The work of the award winners can be viewed at [www.TheFA.com/Respect](http://www.TheFA.com/Respect)

The **Respect** Awards will be staged once again in 2011 with application forms available from January 2011 from the FA and County Football Associations.

Name of Organisation / Individual	Category
Arsenal	PL Fair Play Award Championship
Doncaster Rovers	FL Fair Play Award League 1
Swindon Town	FL Fair Play Award League 2
Rochdale	National League System League Steps 1 to 4
Northern Premier League	National League System League Steps 5 to 7
The Hellenic Football League	National League System Club Steps 1 to 4
Garforth Town Football Club	Women's Pyramid League
East Riding County Women's League	Grassroots Adult League
Sheppey Sunday league	Grassroots Youth League or Organisation
East Berkshire Youth Football League	Grassroots Youth League or Organisation
North Wilts Youth & Minor League	Grassroots Club
Leamington Hibernian Football Club	Bobby Moore Award
Malcolm Lee (Don't X the Line)	



Respect Code of Conduct



**Respect**



## Young Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

As a player, you have a big part to play. That's why The FA is asking every player to follow a **Respect Code of Conduct**.

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### When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability
- lay fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- **Respect** my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- 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
- 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/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

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### I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club

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### 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



## Spectators and parents/carers

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game

This club is supporting The FA's **Respect** programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment.

Remember children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Winning isn't everything.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect Code of Conduct** for spectators and parents/carers at all times

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### I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Always **Respect** the match officials' decisions
- Remain outside the field of play 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
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
- 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:

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### I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents

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### In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club



## Match Officials

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect Code of Conduct** of match officials at all time.

**I will:**

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Support my match official colleagues at all times
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing **Respect** to everyone involved in the game

- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

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 meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Committee



## Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In the FA's survey of 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sideline.

Play your part and observe the Football Association's **Respect Code of Conduct** in everything you do.

**On and off the field, I will:**

- 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
- Always **Respect** the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour

**When working with players, I will:**

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me

- Ensure all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Develop mutual trust and Respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- 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 be:**

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach
- Required to attend a FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

**In addition:**

- My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn





# Adult Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game

Players tell us they want a referee for every match, yet 7,000 match officials drop out each season because of the abuse and intimidation they receive on and off the pitch. **Respect** your referee today and you may just get one for every match this season.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect** Code of Conduct for players at all times.

### 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 officials 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
- Receive a warning from the coach
- Receive a written warning from the club committee
- Be required to attend a FA education course
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined
- Be required to leave the club

### In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club





Lose Respect  
Lose the game



# THANKS DAD

You think you're 'supporting'  
your son. His team-mates think  
he's a loser because his Dad  
mouths off from the sidelines.

**Are you losing it?**

**Respect** 

[TheFA.com/respectguide](http://TheFA.com/respectguide)

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**Respect**