

BURSCOUGH FC

CODE OF CONDUCT

2025/2026





YOUNG PLAYERS

WHEN PLAYING FOOTBALL 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/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 has to 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/all of 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
- 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.

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

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
- 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 and offer players 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:

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.

IN ADDITION:

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



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

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 BE:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- 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 FA Coaching Licence may be withdrawn.



ADULT PLAYERS

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

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 an 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



CONDUCT FLOW CHART

LEVEL 1

Low Level Misconduct (Green)

Examples:

- Lateness to training/matches
- Minor disrespect (answering back, poor attitude)
- One-off inappropriate language
- Not following team rules

Action:

- Coach addresses informally on the spot
- Reminder of behaviour expectations / team code of conduct
- Record in conduct log
- Monitor behaviour for repeat issues

LEVEL 2

Medium Level Misconduct (Amber)

Examples:

- Repeated lateness or poor attitude
- Bullying or repeated verbal abuse towards teammates
- Refusing to follow coach instructions
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour in training or matches

Action:

- Coach escalates to Child Welfare Officer / Club Committee
- Meeting with player and parents/carers
- Behaviour improvement plan put in place
- Temporary suspension from training/matches if necessary
- Record incident and agreed actions

LEVEL 3

High Level Misconduct (Red)

Examples:

- Physical violence towards players, coaches, or officials
- Serious bullying or harassment
- Substance misuse, theft, or criminal behaviour linked to the club
- Actions that bring the club into serious disrepute

Action:

- Immediate removal from session/match
- Report to Club Committee and Child Welfare Officer
- Formal disciplinary process (possible suspension/expulsion)
- Inform County FA if appropriate
- Record incident and final decision



Disciplinary Process for Conduct

Step 1 – Report Logged

- Any coach, player, parent, or official can raise a conduct concern.
- The Child Welfare Officer (CWO) records the incident in the official safeguarding & conduct log.
- Initial details gathered: date, time, people involved, witnesses, description of incident.

Step 2 – Initial Review (CWO)

- CWO assesses the severity (Low / Medium / High).
- If Low Level (Level 1) → coach or CWO deals informally, logs outcome.
- If Medium or High Level (Level 2/3) → proceed to investigation.

Step 3 – Investigation (CWO)

- Speak with the player(s) involved, parents/carers (if appropriate), and witnesses.
- Collect written or verbal statements where possible.
- Keep all information confidential and factual.
- CWO summarises findings in an Investigation Report.

Step 4 – Review & Conclude (CWO)

- CWO reviews evidence and makes recommendations for possible outcomes (e.g., warning, behaviour plan, suspension).
- CWO submits the Investigation Report & Recommendations to the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Continued.....



Step 5 – Final Decision (Chairman & Vice Chairman)

- The Chairman and Vice Chairman review the CWO's report.
- They may request additional information or clarification before deciding.
- They agree on a final decision and sanction (if required), which may include:
 - Verbal or written warning
 - Behaviour improvement plan
 - Temporary suspension (training/matches)
 - Permanent removal/expulsion from the club
 - Referral to the County FA (for serious cases)

Step 6 – Communication of Outcome

- Chairman/ Vice Chairman (with support from CWO) informs the player and parents/carers of the decision in writing.
- A copy is kept in the conduct log.

Step 7 – Follow Up & Monitoring

- CWO monitors the player's behaviour after the decision.
- Coaches provide feedback on progress.
- Any repeat or escalating incidents re-enter the process at the appropriate level.



CONTACT DETAILS

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