



STENHOUSEMUIR F.C.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Stenhousemuir FC Community Foundation Coach/Official Code of Conduct

As a coach or official at Stenhousemuir FC, you play a crucial role in shaping a positive, respectful, and safe environment for parents, players, fellow coaches, and officials. Whether leading recreational programmes or competitive teams, your leadership and behaviours sets the standard for the club. We ask that all coaches and officials adhere to the following Code of Conduct.

1. Supportive and Positive Behaviour

- **Encouragement and Motivation:** I will promote a positive atmosphere where players feel supported, focusing on effort, improvement, and enjoyment, rather than just winning.
- **Respect:** I will treat all players, parents, fellow coaches, referees, and opposition with respect, avoiding any negative, abusive, or discriminatory language or behaviour.
- **Sportsmanship:** I will model good sportsmanship by acknowledging both teams' efforts and respecting the decisions made by referees and officials, even when I disagree.

2. Player Development Focus

- **Growth Over Results:** I will prioritise the personal development, enjoyment, and well-being of the players over winning. I will help players develop their skills, confidence, and love for the game.
- **Appropriate Challenges:** I will provide opportunities for all players to participate and progress at their own pace, ensuring that everyone feels included, regardless of ability.
- **Teamwork and Fair Play:** I will teach players the value of teamwork, respect for others, and the importance of effort over results.

3. Commitment to Professionalism

- **Planning and Preparedness:** I will arrive at training sessions and games on time and fully prepared with a well-thought-out plan. I will ensure that my sessions are safe, engaging, and appropriate for the age and skill level of my players.
- **Constructive Feedback:** I will provide feedback to players in a positive and constructive manner, focussing on how they can improve and praising their effort, progress, and sportsmanship.
- **Handling Disputes:** If disagreements arise with parents, players, or officials, I will address them professionally, following club protocols for appropriate communication.



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4. Respect for Referees and Officials

- **Respecting Referees' Decisions:** I will respect and support the decisions made by referees and officials, whether I agree or disagree, and ensure that players do the same.
- **Promoting Fair Play:** I will advocate for and model fair play by supporting the referees' authority and helping players understand the importance of playing within the rules.

5. Ensuring a Safe and Positive Environment

- **Health and Safety:** I will make player safety my top priority, ensuring all training sessions and games are conducted in a safe manner. I will monitor players for injuries and act responsibly if any occur, making sure they receive proper care.
- **Medical Awareness:** I will be aware of any medical conditions or requirements players may have and ensure that necessary medications or medical supplies are accessible when needed.
- **Creating an Alcohol and Substance Free Environment:** I will ensure that no alcohol, tobacco, or other harmful substances are present during training sessions or matches.

6. Commitment to Coaching Ethics

- **Inclusivity and Equality:** I will ensure that all players, regardless of ability, background, or experience, are treated equally, and that everyone feels valued and included.
- **Avoiding Bias:** I will make team selection, playing time, and tactical decisions based on what is in the best interest of player development and team goals, avoiding favouritism or bias.
- **Continuous Learning:** I will commit to improving my coaching knowledge and skills by staying informed on best practices and regularly attending coaching development sessions.

7. Understanding the Pathways

- **Recreational Programmes:** I understand that the focus of the recreational pathway is on enjoyment, participation, and skill development. I will ensure that every player feels welcome and that games are fun and inclusive.
- **Competitive Teams Pathway:** I understand that the competitive player pathway requires a higher level of commitment and focus on player development. I will set high standards for effort and teamwork while balancing competition with a positive, supportive approach.





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8. Effective Communication with Players and Parents

- **Open and Constructive Dialogue:** I will maintain open, respectful communication with parents and players, ensuring that feedback is clear, constructive, and focussed on growth.
- **Using Appropriate Channels:** I will follow club guidelines for discussing playing time, tactics, or other team decisions with parents, ensuring these conversations are held respectfully and at appropriate times.

9. Commitment to Club Policies and Consequences

- **Adherence to Club Policies:** I understand and agree to adhere to all Stenhousemuir Community Foundation and Stenhousemuir Football Club policies and guidelines, including this Code of Conduct.
- **Consequences for Violations:** I understand that failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions by the club, including warnings, temporary bans from attending games or practices, or other actions deemed appropriate by club officials.

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agreed to follow this Code of Conduct, supporting a safe, positive, and respectful environment for all members of the Stenhousemuir FC community.

Coach/Official's Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

