



## Abbeyleix Athletic Football Club: Club Ethos, “Code of Conduct” and Club Child Safeguarding Policies

### Club Ethos

Objective	The key objective of the club is to promote participation in team sport amongst all children aged 6-17 years, and then helping them transition into Senior Football
Goals	Up to and including u12’s, the club’s focus is on involvement and in helping every player improve their own standard of play. This means that every player taken to a game will be given the opportunity to participate in a minimum of 25% of that game (in 80% of all games, across a season). Ideally, and where practical, this should be closer to 50%, albeit larger squads make this ideal more difficult to attain. From u13’s upwards the club is agreed to increase the emphasis on being competitive and in helping players align their ability with each team’s collective ability, thus helping players transition from Juvenile to Senior teams where the emphasis will be on being fully competitive.
Welcome	We welcome and respect all opponents to Father Breen Park...without them there would be no game.
Condemnation	The club condemns any kind of violence, aggressive behaviour, abusive language, all forms of intolerance, bullying, undermining, cheating and drug taking [enhancement or otherwise].

### Club Code of Conduct

<b>R</b> espect	Please respect all players, parents, coaches, referees, and opponents...at all times. <i>“To give respect is to earn respect.”</i> The Club is especially mindful that REFEREES must be treated with respect and any person confronting, abusing, or intimidating referees will be asked to meet the Club Executive to explain their actions, with possible sanctions, including being asked to leave the club.
<b>E</b> njoy	The game, whilst competitive, is primarily about having fun and for the players to enjoy learning and expressing themselves through sport.
<b>S</b> upport	Please support and applaud <u>all</u> good play and sportsmanship, by both home and away teams.
<b>P</b> assionate	Our players and our coaches are passionate about the game...parents and supporters can be also, as long as we don’t ‘cross the line’ and criticise or abuse anyone else involved in the game.
<b>E</b> xperience	During a match, only the players can solve ‘in-game’ problems and, as such, they experience making their own decisions. They won’t always get these decisions right first time, but will learn and be better next time.
<b>C</b> hallenge	We want every player to improve, and we challenge them to do so. To do this, they need to try new things without fear of criticism from teammates, coaches, parents and supporters.
<b>T</b> eam	Football is a team game, by working together the players constantly help each other to improve further. Please also remember, coaches, parents and supporters are all part of the team.

**All playing members are expected to adhere to the club rules and code of conduct.** Players who consistently misbehave and show disrespect towards coaches and/or fellow players, will be warned three times within the team environment. After which, the coach or manager must report the issue to the Children’s Officer, the Chairperson and/or the Secretary. This will lead to a formal discussion to review the issues and try to re-establish a positive and respectful relationship. If reconciliation fails, the player can be asked to leave the club. In addition, any player, coach or even spectator who is red carded, will be responsible for paying the subsequent fine.

<b>Child Safeguarding Policies</b>	
The summaries below are provided for players and parents/guardians to be aware that Abbeyleix AFC has given appropriate consideration and implemented important child safeguarding policies and procedures. Full details of all the Clubs policies and procedures relating to Club’s <i>Child Safeguarding Policy</i> are available on request.	
<b>The Club’s Safeguarding principles</b>	Every young person who takes part in football activities with Abbeyleix AFC should be able to do so in a fun and safe environment, and be protected from neglect, bullying and any form of abuse. All young people should expect appropriate management and support with regards to their involvement in football.
<b>Missing or found child policy</b>	Please report any missing child to a club executive, manager, coach or match official, immediately. If an unaccompanied child is found on the club’s premises, the club will inform the Gardai and ask for their support.
<b>Photographic images policy</b>	Parents or other spectators intending to photograph or video at one of our matches are required to ask permission from a club official. Permission will not always be granted. If any player and/or and parents have concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography, they should record and report their concerns in the same manner as any other Child Protection matter. If any players photo or image is used on social media; without the express permission of the player/parent, the player must not be named.
<b>Club Travel &amp; Changing Policy</b>	Parents are encouraged to travel with the player to all away matches, but it is recognised this is not always possible. When players are transported by team managers/coaches it is recognised that there are extra responsibilities to be considered. Where possible players should sit in the rear seats and there should always be multiple players traveling in each vehicle. It is the responsibility of individual managers and coaches, using their own vehicles to transport players, to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover and be careful not to carry more than the permitted number of passengers.
<b>Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures</b>	The club takes all complaints extremely seriously and has a process in place to deal with such matters. In the first instance, an approach should be made to the <i>Club Children’s Officer</i> (details directly below). If the complaint is being made against the CCO, an approach should be made to either the Chairperson or Club Secretary.
<b>Key Contact</b>	<b>Ciara Noone</b> is the <i>Club Children’s Officer</i> and can be contacted on 087 127 8453 or by email, <a href="mailto:ciara.butler@hotmail.com">ciara.butler@hotmail.com</a>