

# Maryland Fletcher Football Club

## Working with Children Code of Conduct

### 1. WHAT TO DO

Treat everyone with respect and honesty - children, young persons, parents, legal guardians, volunteers, referees, etc.

Remember to be a positive role model to children in all your conduct with them.

Set clear boundaries about appropriate behaviour between yourself and children and young persons in all activities conducted by the Club.

Be aware of and follow the requirements and guidelines set out in the Maryland Fletcher Football Club Child Protect Policy.

Always have another adult present or in sight when conducting one to one coaching, instruction, etc.

Record and act on serious complaints of abuse.

### 2. WHAT NOT TO DO

Do not develop any 'special' relationships with children or young persons that could be seen as favouritism such as offering gifts or special treatment.

Do not do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as going to the toilet or changing clothes.

Do not visit a child unless it has been arranged beforehand with the parent or legal guardian and the parent or legal guardian will be always present during the visit.

Do not initiate any close physical contact with a child or young person.

As a rule, open displays of contact initiated by a child, in the presence of others, are acceptable and can be reciprocated.

Do not administer physical punishment, even if fin, as it may be construed as physical abuse. Coaches should take care not to cause harm or act in violent ways when playing physical games.

Do not be involved in any inappropriate conversations or communication with children or young persons. This includes anything that can be construed as sexual, sexual innuendo, swearing, discussion of body parts, ridicule, mockery, or verbal abuse. We should always be aware of the power of our speech.

Do not send any personal correspondence to a child or young person (e.g., letters, emails, SMS, Facebook chats, etc.)

Do not make personal phone calls to a child or young person, except where specific permission has been given by parent or legal guardian. If a child or young person needs to be phone for any reason, it should be normal practice to speak with a parent or legal guardian either at the start or the end of the call.

Do not initiate personal contact with a child or young person outside of official Club events. Where a volunteer meets a child or young person out of Club times unintentionally (e.g., bumping into a child or young person at the local shops), it is appropriate to greet the child and converse briefly, but inappropriate to go anywhere private with them.