



Code of Conduct for Match Officials

This code has been written to inform and remind match officials of their responsibilities and the minimum standards of behaviour and performance expected from them.

MATCH OFFICIALS SHOULD:

1. Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players.
2. Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner during games. Emphasise the spirit of the game.
3. Appreciate the needs of the young players before the needs of the sport.
4. Understand the physical, social and psychological development of young players.
5. Be a positive role model. You set an example, and as such, comments you receive should be positive and supportive.
6. Look to self-improvement e.g. participation in Mini/Midi or National 15-a-side courses.

MATCH OFFICIALS MUST:

1. Recognise that the safety of young players is paramount.
2. Explain decisions - all young players are still learning.
3. Always penalise foul play.
4. Play advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow.
5. Show empathy for the age and ability of young players.
6. Be consistent and objective.
7. Ensure that verbal abuse from players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated and is dealt with by club officials immediately.
8. Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.