



# STOKE HILL AFC

## CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

Revised July '18

### **Codes of Conduct & Policies for:**

- 1.
2. Introduction
3. Players Code
4. Coaches / Managers Code
5. Parents Code
6. Child Protection Policy
7. Zero Tolerance / Disciplinary Procedure
8. Acceptance of the Code of Conduct (to be signed and returned)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Stoke Hill AFC. We are an FA Chartered Standard Club and are based at Hamlin Lane Playing Fields, Exeter and have been playing since the 1990's.

We have had some success with a few of our former Players turning professional and representing their Countries at various levels. The likes of Jordan Moore-Taylor, who was at Exeter City, and their Captain, for a number of years; Christy Pym, Exeters current No1 goalkeeper also played for England U20s and Ethan Ampadu who, at the age of 16 signed for Chelsea and has played for England U16 & Wales in various age groups including the Senior Squad.

Please take the time to read all sections of the Club Code of Conduct as it will affect the Parents/Guardians as well as the Players.

Some parts may seem like common sense and human decency, however, previous season have highlighted the need to have a reminder put in.

We, as a Club, will put the Players welfare above all else and we will deal with those that go against this Code of Conduct robustly for the Players safety and wellbeing.

If you have concerns about the welfare or behaviour of a child, spectator or Coach you can speak with Child Welfare Officer, or any member of the Committee, in the strictest of confidence. Up to date details can be found on the Stoke Hill website.

We hope you have a fun and enjoyable season with us at Stoke Hill AFC.

Chairman:	Lee Irvine
Vice Chairman:	Dale Blight
Secretary/Treasurer:	Helen Arthurs
Child Welfare Officer:	Lisa Arnold

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS**

- 1) Children must provide the appropriate clothing. Football boots for grass, Training shoes for hard surfaces, Shin Pads (no shin pads no play) and a Filled water bottle.
- 2) Children should turn up at least five minutes before training and thirty Minutes before a match.
- 3) Players or Parents must inform the Manager or Assistant Manager well in advance if they are going to be absent or late.
- 4) Players are expected to show respect to their Coach or Manager at all times. They should also display positive attitudes, and follow directions as given by Coaches or Manager.
- 5) Players must be courteous and polite at all times towards team mates, opponents, coaches and the manager, referees, officials and spectators
- 6) No Swearing, Spitting, Name Calling or Racist Remarks are allowed.
- 7) Children must show respect for the facilities and the equipment they use. All players may be expected to help set up and clear away equipment.
- 8) At the end of a match all players must shake hands with opposition players and thank the referee and officials.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES / MANAGERS**

- 1) Coaches / Managers must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
- 2) Coaches / Managers must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- 3) Coaches / Managers must adhere to all guidelines laid down within the constitution and Rules of The Football Association.
- 4) Coaches / Managers must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- 5) Coaches / Managers must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- 6) Coaches / Managers must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- 7) Coaches / Managers must ensure that activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
- 8) Coaches/ Managers should, at the outset, clarify with the player (and where appropriate, their parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- 9) Coaches / Managers must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctor, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
- 10) Coaches / Managers must always promote the appropriate Code of Conduct and positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) to players, parents and spectators alike. Never condone any violations of the Laws of the Game or relevant rule and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- 11) Coaches / Managers must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance and be a role model for players, parents and spectators.
- 12) Coaches / Managers should never use inappropriate language.
- 13) Coaches / Managers should never tolerate inappropriate language being used by players, parents or spectators.
- 14) Coaches / Managers should respect all club kit and equipment and ensure that it is maintained in good order. They should also ensure that any equipment used on match days, is returned to the appropriate place, immediately after use.

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS**

- 1) Do not force an unwilling child to participate in football.
- 2) Remember children are involved in football for their enjoyment, not yours.
- 3) If your child cannot attend a match and / or training session, it is your responsibility to inform your coach / manager in good time.
- 4) You must not leave young children unattended (applies especially to mini soccer age groups), at matches / training sessions without the express permission of your coach / manager. If permission is given by the coach / manager for you to do this, you must ensure that you arrive back at least 10 minutes before the match / training session is due to finish.
- 5) Encourage your child to play to the Laws of the Game and not to argue with referees and other officials.
- 6) Teach your child that honest effort is more important than victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- 7) Turn losing into winning by helping your child work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- 8) Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and members of the opposition.
- 9) Do not question the referee's judgment or honesty. Remember he / she is only human with the same feelings as you and, like you, sometimes may make an honest error.
- 10) Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's football.
- 11) Recognise the value and importance of coaches who are all volunteers. They give their time and resources to provide football for your child.
- 12) Read the Laws of the Game to understand better what you are looking at and commenting on.
- 13) Promote this Code of Conduct.
- 14) Please support the team. Cheer and root for all the players in the team. Only look for the good things your child did in the game or practise. Praise them about it on the way home and remind them of it and on the way to their next game
- 15) Let the Children Play, Coaches Coach, Referees Ref and the manager pick the team.
- 16) Do not set a bad example to the children by arguing with supporters of the opposing team.

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Stoke Hill AFC will adopt and adhere to the Football Association Child Protection Policy and in doing so will nominate or appoint a designated person to ensure that the Child Protection Policy is carried out at all levels. The individual nominated or appointed by Stoke Hill AFC to carry out these policies will be known as the Child Welfare Officer (CWO). The CWO should carry out the following procedures.

- 1) Implement The FA's Child Protection Policy and Best Practice Guidelines within the club.
- 2) Implement The FA's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
- 3) Promote the benefits of The FA Child Protection education programme.
- 4) Promote a safe and enjoyable environment exists within the club in which football is played.
- 5) Implement a vetting and screening programme. FA procedures & CRB checks.  
Club Officials, Managers, Coaches & Volunteers

The CWO should ensure all Club Officials, Managers, Coaches & Volunteers clearly understand basic guidelines in relation to Child Protection Issues.

- 1) Avoid spending too much time alone with one child away from the others.
- 2) Avoid taking children to their home where they will be alone with the child.
- 3) Never take part in rough, physical or sexually provocative games including horseplay.
- 4) Never share a room with a child.
- 5) Never allow or take part in any form of inappropriate touching.
- 6) Never allow children to use inappropriate language. Always challenge this behaviour.
- 7) Never make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- 8) Never allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- 9) Never do things of a personal nature for children or vulnerable adults that they can do for themselves.
- 10) Never invite or allow children to stay with them at their home unsupervised.
- 11) Never accept bullying; rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.

**ZERO TOLERANCE — OFFICIAL CLUB POLICY**  
**INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE & REFEREE ABUSE**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Stoke Hill AFC acknowledges that every child, young person or adult who plays or participates in football should be able to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- Stoke Hill AFC acknowledges that all of the above should be protected from poor practice and from all forms of abuse.
- Stoke Hill AFC will not tolerate any form of inappropriate language or threatening behaviour from parents, guests, spectators, visitors, officials or club representatives on match sidelines, particularly that aimed towards match officials and participating children.
- Stoke Hill AFC reserves the right to ask any individual demonstrating actions deemed to conflict with this policy to move away from the match sidelines and, if necessary, to leave club premises.
- Stoke Hill AFC thanks you for your cooperation.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

If there was an incident of inappropriate language and/or match official abuse, then the manager is to report the incident to the Stoke Hill AFC disciplinary committee.

This report to include whether it was witnessed by the referee and/or manager and whether the parent showed remorse.

The parent has no right of appeal if the incident was witnessed by either the referee, linesman or the manager.

If the incident was not witnessed by the referee, linesman or manager, then at least two witness statements are required and the parent has a right of appeal.

The disciplinary committee will comprise of the Club Chairman, the Club Welfare Officer and two managers not including the manager who reported the incident.

For the first incident and if the parent does not show remorse, then the Club Chairman will write a letter which will include a formal warning to impose a match ban for X weeks to be determined by the committee.

The disciplinary committee shall also have the option to escalate the issue to Devon FA who may impose a fine of at least £35 under rule E20a "Failure to ensure supporters conducted themselves in an orderly fashion"; this fine would be reclaimed from the parent.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE READ THE ABOVE SECTIONS

This form will need to be signed by both Player and Parent/Guardian and then returned to your Manager along with the Player Registration Form.

I confirm I have read and agree with the Code of Conduct, and associated Policies as laid out in the Club Document Y / N

I confirm that, as the Player, I agree to abide with the Players Code of Conduct Y / N

I confirm that, as the Parent/Guardian, I agree to abide with the Parents Code of Conduct and to promote the Players Code to my child Y / N

Players Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Players Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_