



LIONS A.F.C.



**Club Rules
Codes of Conduct
Sanctions Policy**



LIONS A.F.C.



Club Rules

1. All members and representatives are required to abide by the club's codes of conduct.
2. All incidents involving players or representatives of the club should be reported to the club secretary within 24 hours. All incidents involving schoolboy/girl players should be reported to the club schoolboys/girl secretary within 24 hours. In particular incidents involving red cards, serious incidents that require medical treatment, or concern the well being and safety of individuals should be reported.
3. Team managers are responsible for the safe keeping of all club gear and equipment.
4. Any person who willfully damages or neglects club property will be liable for its replacement.
5. When dealing with underage players, the Lions AFC Code of Ethics and Best Practice, which has been adopted by this club, must be followed.
6. A minimum of 2 adults must be in charge of an underage team at all times.
7. When representing the club, teams must wear the club gear and have it in good order. Without proper Lions AFC shorts and socks players will not be allowed to play for their team. Shin guards are compulsory for both matches and training and players are not allowed to wear jewelry while playing or training.
8. Schoolboy/girl players must play in their own age group unless no team exists in that age group. In certain circumstances the club committee may waive application of this rule.
9. The club membership fee must be paid in accordance with the rates and arrangements as agreed by the club's committee. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring that all players are properly registered and have paid their membership.
10. Players who are not registered or who do not have their membership paid are not eligible to be selected to play for or train with the club.
11. The club's committee has the right to rule on any issues that are not covered in the rules. Any disputes regarding the interpretation of club rules shall be determined by the Club's Committee.
12. All players, coaches and managers are expected to compete fairly. Those who are found guilty of violent behaviour, foul or abusive language or deliberate dangerous play will face disciplinary action by the club and or the league.
13. Those found responsible by the club, the Kilkenny and District League or the F.A.I. of bringing the game or club into disrepute will be liable for whatever fines imposed by the above mentioned.



LIONS A.F.C.



Code of Conduct for Coaches/Managers

1. Lead by example and show respect for all players, referees and officials that you come into contact with in the course of club activities.
2. Be fully prepared for coaching sessions and matches.
3. Provide all necessary information to parents/guardians i.e. match dates, times, venues. Don't forget to advise them of any changes in arrangements.
4. Be aware of and keep up to date with club rules, policies and developments.
5. Encourage self-discipline, good behavior, and punctuality amongst players.
6. Report all incidents involving an injury to players during training or matches, to the schoolboys/girls secretary.
7. Ensure goals are secured the ground before and after training and matches.
8. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved.
9. Complete all required administrative work e.g. registration of players, completion of match cards
10. Team managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior of the team in their charge. You must not incite or encourage players to use abusive language, violent conduct or deliberate dangerous play. Be prepared to take off an offending player.



LIONS A.F.C.



Code of Conduct for Players

1. Show respect for team-mates, managers/coaches, opponents, officials and spectators.
2. Appreciate and accept everyone in the group, regardless of ability, race, religion, gender etc.
3. Never use social media to discuss team mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or club officials.
4. Turn up on time for matches and training.
5. Have full and proper club gear for matches and training. Clean your boots regularly.
6. Help out with equipment and cleaning dressing rooms before and after matches and training.
7. Have commitment to your club and pride in your performance.
8. Play to win but accept defeat graciously.
9. Give your best effort at training and matches always.
10. Be willing to learn, improve and develop skills.
11. Give your full attention to managers/coaches during training and matches.
12. Follow all reasonable instructions given by your manager/coach.
13. Take due care of club equipment and property.
14. Pay membership fees and match/training subscriptions.
15. If you feel you are being bullied feel safe to tell your manager or the club's child protection officer.



Code of Conduct for Parents & Guardians

1. Never force a child to play soccer. Have realistic expectation of their skills and don't put your child under undue pressure.
2. Remember the game is for the child and not for the adult.
3. Inform the Manager/Coach of any problem or ailment that may affect the safety of your child.
4. Ensure your child attends training and matches on time, and that safe arrangements are in place for your child traveling to and from home.
5. Always show respect for all players, opponents, managers, coaches and officials.
6. Show good example, don't taunt, boo or use profane language.
7. Give praise for playing fairly and making good effort.
8. Help coaches when you see the need. Offers of help are always appreciated.
9. Accept disappointment and don't criticise your child or others for any mistake.
10. Respect the decisions of managers and coaches. Leave the tactics, coaching and team selection to them. Never question or confront managers/coaches or officials. If you wish to discuss an issue arrange a time and venue for a discussion.
11. Inform your child's Coach/Manager in advance and by designated times, if your child is unavailable for training/matches.
12. Encourage your children to abide by club rules and code of conduct.
13. Support all club fundraising activities.
14. Be responsible for arranging transportation of your child to matches and training and other club events.



LIONS A.F.C.



Code of Conduct for Spectators

- Remember that although children play organised soccer they are not miniature professionals. Don't place excessive pressure on children to perform to unrealistically high expectations. Children play soccer to develop their skills, to have fun and enjoy the game.
- Be on your best behaviour and lead by example. The behaviour of a teams supporters will often be remembered long after the result of the game. Be remembered for the right reasons.
- Applaud good play, sportsmanship and best effort by the visiting team as well as your own.
- Welcome and respect all your teams opponents. Without them there would be no match.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms at every opportunity.
- Verbal abuse of players, match officials or opposing supporters cannot be accepted in any shape or form. Players or match officials should never be regarded as fair targets



Sanctions Policy, Guidance & Procedures

Discipline in Soccer

Discipline in soccer should always be positive in focus, providing the structures and rules that allow players to set their own goals and strive for them. It should encourage players to become more responsible for themselves and their actions and therefore more independent.

Discipline should be a positive reinforcement for effort. It should encourage the development of emotional and social skills as well as skills in soccer. Players have to be helped to become responsible for the decisions and choices they make within soccer, particularly when it is likely to make a difference between playing fairly or unfairly.

There is no place in soccer for fighting, bullying, over aggressive or dangerous behaviour.

At all times, players should treat others in a respectful manner. They should never bully, interfere with or take unfair advantage of others.

The use of sanctions is an important element in the maintenance of discipline. However Coaches/Managers/Volunteers and Administrators should have a clear understanding of where and when particular sanctions are appropriate.

It should be remembered that effectively controlled organisations and successful coaches / managers / volunteers are characterised by the sparing use of sanctions.

The age and developmental stage of the child should be taken into account when using sanctions. Sanctions should always be fair, consistent and applied evenly, and in the case of a persistent offence, should be progressively applied. Persistent minor offenses, while possibly not serious in and of themselves, can disrupt training/matches and affect the participation, development and enjoyment of other players and therefore cannot be ignored.

Sanctions should only be used in a corrective way that is intended to help children improve both now and in the future or to facilitate the safety, participation, development or enjoyment of others involved in the game. They should never be used in retaliation or to make coach/manager/volunteer feel better or more powerful. When violations of the team rules or other misbehaviours occur, sanctions should always be applied in an impartial and fair manner.

Sanctions should never be used as threats. If a rule is broken, the appropriate sanction/s should be implemented consistently, fairly and firmly. Sanctions should not be applied if the coach/manager/volunteer is not comfortable with them. If an appropriate action cannot be devised immediately, the child should be told that the matter will be dealt with later, at a specified time and as soon as possible.



LIONS A.F.C.



Players Sanctions Procedure

The following steps are to be taken where club coaches/managers/volunteers or administrators deem sanctions are required.

Step 1: Club rules should be clearly stated and agreed.

Step 2: A warning should be given if a rule is broken.

Step 3: A sanction (use of time out for example) should be applied if a rule is broken for a second time.

Step 4: If a rule is broken three or more times, the player should be spoken to. Where the player is under 18 years of age, the player's parents/guardians should also be informed and asked to speak to their child. Parents/guardians must encourage the player to abide by the club rules..

Step 5: If further breaches of the rules continue, and the player is under 18 years of age, the player's parents/guardians may be requested to collect the child from training/match/event immediately and must do so accordingly. If the player is over 18 years of age, the player may be asked to leave/not partake in the training/match/event.

Step 6: If further breaches of the rules continue, the player's team manager, coach or a club officer may refer the matter to the club's executive/committee.

Step 7: The executive/committee, having considered the matter may, by majority decision, decide to suspend the player temporarily from the club for a defined period of time or expel the player from the club indefinitely. The interpretation of club rules and appropriate behavior by, and subsequent decisions of, the executive/committee is final.

Serious incidents (for example, but not limited to, physical abuse, verbal abuse of other players, coaches, match officials, club administrators or other persons) may be referred immediately to the club executive/committee by the player's team manager, coach or club officer at their discretion, without the need to operate steps 1 to 5 above.

Once a sanction/s has been imposed and complete, it is important to make the player feel he/she is a valued member of the team once again.