

Player Code of Conduct

Play with effort. Treat people with respect. Represent the club with pride.

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WEBSITE
www.ardaghunited.com

Every Ardagh United player has the right to enjoy football in a safe, positive and supportive environment. Players also share responsibility for creating that environment through their attitude, effort and behaviour.

This Code explains the standards expected whenever a player is training, playing, travelling or otherwise representing Ardagh United.

1. Play for Enjoyment and Development

- Take part because you enjoy football and want to learn, improve and contribute to your team.
- Give your best effort in training and matches, whatever the score or your position.
- Listen, ask questions and be willing to learn from coaches.
- Accept that mistakes are part of learning and respond positively when things do not go your way.
- Attend regularly and arrive on time, prepared with the correct clothing and equipment.

2. Respect Teammates

- Treat every teammate fairly, kindly and with respect.
- Encourage others and celebrate their effort and improvement.
- Do not bully, exclude, humiliate, threaten or deliberately upset another player.
- Never use discriminatory, insulting or abusive language.
- Support new players and help everyone feel welcome and included.

3. Respect Coaches and Club Volunteers

- Listen when a coach or club volunteer is speaking and follow reasonable instructions.
- Accept team selection, positions, substitutions and playing-time decisions respectfully.
- Speak to coaches politely and raise concerns in an appropriate way.
- Do not disrupt training, matches or team talks.
- Value the time and effort given by the club's volunteers.

4. Respect Match Officials and Opponents

- Accept the decisions of referees and match officials without arguing, intimidation or abuse.
- Treat opponents with respect before, during and after the match.
- Play fairly and follow the Laws of the Game and competition rules.

- Do not cheat, deliberately injure an opponent, retaliate or encourage confrontation.
- Acknowledge opponents and officials appropriately after the match.

5. Positive Behaviour at Training and Matches

- Be ready to participate, work hard and help create a positive team atmosphere.
- Use appropriate language and control your temper.
- Follow instructions about pitches, changing areas, equipment and facilities.
- Do not leave a session or match without telling the responsible coach.
- Tell a coach promptly if you are injured, unwell or unable to participate safely.

6. Safeguarding and Speaking Up

- Respect personal boundaries, privacy and the dignity of other players.
- Do not take part in bullying, harassment, discrimination, hazing or inappropriate behaviour.
- Tell a trusted adult, coach or the club's safeguarding contact if something makes you or another player feel unsafe, worried or uncomfortable.
- Never keep a concern secret because someone has pressured or threatened you.
- Remember that asking for help is the right thing to do.

7. Mobile Phones, Photography and Social Media

- Follow club rules about mobile phones in changing areas, at training and on matchdays.
- Never take or share photographs or videos in changing rooms.
- Do not post insulting, abusive or embarrassing content about teammates, coaches, officials, opponents or the club.
- Do not share another person's image or personal information without appropriate permission.
- Report hurtful messages, online bullying or inappropriate contact to a trusted adult.

8. Equality and Inclusion

- Welcome and respect people of every background and ability.
- Do not discriminate against anyone because of race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other personal characteristic.
- Challenge exclusion safely by telling a responsible adult rather than joining in or ignoring serious behaviour.
- Help make Ardagh United a club where everyone feels they belong.

9. Representing Ardagh United

- Behave responsibly when wearing club kit or attending club activities.
- Respect the property and facilities of Ardagh United, opponents and host venues.
- Follow travel, tournament, accommodation and team instructions.
- Remember that conduct away from the pitch, including online, can affect teammates and the reputation of the club.

10. Attendance and Communication

- Tell the coach as early as possible if you cannot attend training or a match.
- Use agreed team communication channels appropriately.
- For younger players, work with a parent or guardian to keep contact details and availability information accurate.
- Do not use team groups to criticise, insult or embarrass others.

11. If This Code Is Not Followed

Where behaviour falls below the standards in this Code, the club will respond in a fair and proportionate way, taking account of the player's age, the seriousness of the behaviour and any previous concerns.

Action may include a conversation with the player, support to improve behaviour, a warning, contact with a parent or guardian, temporary removal from an activity, suspension, or referral under relevant club, league, FAI, disciplinary or safeguarding procedures.

Serious behaviour may be reported to the appropriate governing body or statutory agency where required.

12. Player Commitment

By registering with and representing Ardagh United, players are expected to follow this Code, accept guidance when standards are not met and help make the club safe, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

13. Contact

Questions or concerns about this Code can be submitted via email to info@ardaghunited.com