

MERLEY FOOTBALL CLUB



CODE OF CONDUCT

LAST UPDATED: MAY 2026

FUN | LEARNING | RESPECT | TRUST | TEAMWORK

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a community club, we pride ourselves on the following values:

- RESPECT
- TRUST
- TEAMWORK
- LEARNING
- FUN

RESPECT:

Respect is about valuing and accepting each person for who they are, even when they are different from you or when you may disagree with their views or actions. It means treating others with kindness, courtesy, and politeness always, creating a positive and supportive environment for everyone involved.

Always think before you speak, considering your language, tone, and people around you. Don't use abusive, offensive, or hurtful language. Never engage in disruptive or violent behaviour. The club has ZERO tolerance of any form of disrespect toward players, coaches, referees, or spectators. This includes verbal abuse, bullying, and unsportsmanlike conduct.

The club reserves the right to remove individuals from the club without refund if this happens.

Punctuality and preparedness matter. Arrive on time for all training sessions and matches, ideally 30 minutes before kick-off. Being punctual and bringing the correct equipment shows respect for your teammates, coaches, and the overall team schedule. It helps avoid delays and ensures everyone can participate fully.

Respect match officials and their decisions. Match officials play a crucial role in maintaining fairness and safety during games. Always accept their decisions, even if you disagree. Remember, many officials are young and operate under strict safeguarding rules. They have the authority to issue sanctions, including sending off players, coaches, managers, or spectators if necessary. Show good sportsmanship. At the end of every game, players should shake hands with their opponents, coaches and referees. This gesture promotes respect, camaraderie, and a positive spirit of competition.

Spectators are asked to remain in allocated zones to maintain safety and minimise disruption. This helps create a better atmosphere for players and officials and supports the smooth running of events.

TRUST:

Trust is the belief that someone is good, honest and will not harm you; something or someone that is safe and reliable.

Trust is vital in all aspects of life and is an essential quality to have in sport from all individuals.

Throughout the season, coaches, managers, and committee members will make decisions based on various factors that may not always be immediately clear. It is important to place your full trust in these individuals to act fairly and in the best interests of the club. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to them directly and privately, never during active training sessions, matches, events, or in group chats such as WhatsApp, which the club considers public forums. Our Policies and Code page can provide more information on how to raise potential issues.

The expectation is that all players must trust each other. Trust among teammates is essential for success both on and off the pitch. It encourages players to rely on one another during high-pressure moments, knowing their teammates will be there to back them up. For example, trusting a defender to cover your position or a midfielder to deliver an accurate pass allows players to focus confidently on their own tasks. Trust also means accepting diverse playing styles and personalities, appreciating what each teammate brings to the squad.

Please notify your coach or manager of any injuries you have before, during, or after training sessions or matches. This is important so they can properly assess your condition and create a plan to support your recovery and prevent further harm. Prompt communication helps ensure your safety and allows the coaches to make any adjustments to training or match participation. Your health and well-being are our top priorities.

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TEAMWORK:

Teamwork is all about everyone working together to reach the same goal. In football and at our club, it's really important that everyone, including players, coaches, parents, and fans, supports each other to help the whole team succeed. When we work as one, the club, the team and all individuals become stronger. Teamwork makes the dream work!

Every player must support their teammates by encouraging effort, sharing advice, and helping each other improve both on and off the field. It's about lifting each other up and learning together. Cheer on and celebrate all players, not just your own friends or family. Whether you're playing or watching, encouraging everyone creates a positive and fun environment for all.

LEARNING:

Learning is the process of acquiring knowledge that, combined with experience, transforms what we understand and enhances our abilities and attitudes. Merley FC is committed to promoting learning for everyone involved in the sport, including players, managers, coaches, committee members, parents, and spectators.

Players are expected to actively listen and pay attention to their coaches and managers in all situations. The club strives to provide every player with equal opportunities to learn, not only the technical skills of football but also the values that define our community. In return, we ask that all players stay engaged, remain open to learning, and continue to grow.

Please make sure to recognise that making mistakes is a natural and essential part of learning. We ask that everyone, both inside and outside the club, refrains from criticizing or harassing anyone for their mistakes. The club enforces a strict ZERO tolerance policy against such behaviour, and we expect full compliance with this rule.

FUN:

Enjoyment is an essential part of football, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you experience fun whenever you participate. While football is competitive, maintaining a positive and enjoyable experience should always be a priority. A

Although competition is a key aspect of the sport, your primary focus must be on enjoying the game. Parents and guardians are encouraged to support their children in embracing the joy of football, rather than solely focusing on winning. It is important that you foster a positive attitude and contribute to creating an enjoyable atmosphere for teammates, coaches, and spectators alike. A supportive environment benefits everyone involved.

Football is about building relationships, personal development, and enjoying the experience.

It is vital you make the game fun for yourself and those around you.