



**Respect**



# Achieving Respect

Extending Good Practice



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## Achieving Respect - Extending Good Practice



# Respect



Respect is the collective responsibility of those involved in football, at all levels to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. It is the behavioural code for Football.

The Respect programme was launched at the start of the 2008/09 season and sought to build upon practical measures that progressive clubs, leagues and grass roots organisations had been promoting for some time.

Some of these examples and more recent responses are represented in this document. There will be many others and the FA is keen to hear about them, give credit to their originators and promote to a wider audience.

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## FA and County FA Initiatives

**In Cambridgeshire** - They are introducing the use of a 'Respect' Message prior to youth games taking place. The teams line up - a boot inspection is conducted. The home coach then addresses the players and supporters by reading aloud the following message;

'On behalf of xxx Football Club, I would like to welcome the players, officials and supporters of xxx Football Club. As a member of the xxx Football League, we support the Respect campaign.

You are urged to encourage good and fair play from both teams.

We respectfully request you do not criticise any player nor any of the match officials who will strive to officiate in a fair and just manner. Please accept that in the spirit of the game, mistakes will be made. Enjoy the match'

The Respect handshake (Champions League style) is then conducted and the match then commences.

**In Huntingdonshire** - The CFA will issue all Teams in the CFA with a high visibility 'Respect' bib to encourage the appointment of team marshals to oversee the conduct of spectators and coaches. This follows the practice of 'Don't X the Line' where the visible presence of a monitor significantly improved touchline behaviour.

**Middlesex FA** have introduced a player registration card for their affiliated youth leagues this year which encourages clubs and players to sign up to the Respect Codes of Conduct.

Last year the leagues got all of the clubs to complete and return the signed sheets, this worked well with all codes being returned. The leagues even refused to hand out end of year trophies etc for those who hadn't returned the codes. This ensured a 100% buy in to the programme.

The CFA have also produced guidance for all clubs as to how to use the **Respect** codes when signing players up internally.





**In Berks and Bucks** - the unpleasant experience of watching her son play in an u16 game led Deborah Wyatt to approach the league seeking greater support of the Respect programme. This led the league and the CFA to appoint Deborah an Ambassador and she now presents regularly to leagues and clubs as to what they can do to improve behaviour.

**In Kent** - Sheppey Sunday League secured the support of Swale Borough Council to mark Designated Spectator Areas adjacent to its pitches so reducing public complaints received by the council as to spectator language and behaviour.

**In Sussex** - The CFA highlighted the return to refereeing of a father and son who had previously given it up due to abuse. The story was picked up by the BBC.

**In Cheshire** - Respect Forums have been initiated bringing together lead officers from youth and adult leagues to discuss and resolve issues.



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**Gloucester CFA** - have supported and subsidised the purchase of Designated Spectator Area barriers by its clubs. This has had PR benefit to the CFA and incentivised more leagues to sign up to Respect.

**Leicestershire and Hampshire CFA** have led the promotion of Respect by hiring the Walkers Ground and St Mary's Stadium respectively and invited/obliged clubs and leagues to attend a briefing and Q & A forum. Both events attracted large and interested audiences.

**Somerset CFA** - have ensured that 80% of its referees workforce has undergone Respect training (the highest in the country) by working with its leagues to ensure that this is a mandatory requirement for officials appointed to fixtures in those leagues.

**Lancashire CFA** - The CFA have promoted the 'Respect League of the Year' Award with a public presentation at a Premier League ground.



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**In Liverpool** – Some youth football clubs are offering a £10 discount on membership for parents who undertake the FA's online 'Respect Parents' module prior to registration.

**Essex CFA** – Have worked with local media to publicise the outcome of the Respect programme in the county and a reduction in serious discipline incidents.

**Shropshire CFA** – Used the occasion of their end of season County Cup Finals to promote Respect and to ensure that all the participants were photographed in Respect T shirts and followed the Respect protocols.

**The FA Youth Trust supports a Fair Play Award Scheme whereby all CFA can make an award to 1 Youth Male team and 1 Youth Female team to recognise good behaviour. Each team will receive £200 and 20 commemorative medals.**



## League Initiatives

### The Football Conference, Spartan, Hellenic, Kent County Leagues

all operate Fair play schemes to recognise and reward clubs with the best disciplinary records. The FA Conference awards all teams fifty Fair Play points at the start of the season with cases of reported misconduct reducing this total. At the end of the season those teams that retain the highest point's level are rewarded with a cash prize.

**The Northern League** has included a declaration on the back of its player registration form, effectively signing the player up to the aims of the Respect programme. They are told that signing the registration form implicitly means that they have also signed up for the Respect campaign, as have all their clubs. The Northern League has also run both Good Conduct and Fair Play leagues for many years offering substantial rewards to clubs on the basis of a lack of red and yellow cards and effective administration. This costs the League about £8,000 each year in sportswear vouchers. Most clubs take this very seriously indeed and it's a prime motivation to clean up their act.

### The Spartan South Midlands League

(Steps 5-7) implemented the Respect Campaign from the start of the 2008/09 season, incorporating the Respect handshake, work with the team captains and the team captains being present at the exchange of the team sheets along with the relevant club official so that the referee can outline how he/she will work with the captains to manage the game.

The league also implemented a good discipline incentive scheme last season for the first time and included this within its development plan. The FA subsequently agreed to support this financially.

At the end of the season the discipline records of all clubs was obtained from the County FAs and financial awards made to deserving clubs.





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**The Hellenic League** operates a merit scheme which brings together on-field performance, fair play and good administration:

1. Each club in the Premier, One East & One West start the season with 100 Points.
2. Points are awarded to clubs in league matches as follows:
  - a. 4 points for each goal scored
  - b. 1 point for each Sportsmanship Mark awarded by Referee (1-10)
  - c. 25 Points if Club receive no misconduct in match and no breach of competition rule charges.
3. Points are deducted from clubs in league matches on the following basis:
  - a. 2 points for each goal conceded
  - b. Points are deducted for each caution and player sent off. Each has two levels of point's deduction.
    - i. Caution Codes: C1, C3, C6, C7 - Deduction 5 points
    - ii. Caution Codes: C2, C4, C5 - Deduction 15 Points. These Caution Codes are 'Respect' issues and carry a higher negative tariff.
    - iii. Send Off Codes: S1, S4, S5, S7 - Deduction 20 Points
    - iv. Send Off Codes: S2, S3, S6 - Deduction of 50 Points. These Sending Off Codes are 'Respect' and/or Zero Tolerance issues and carry a higher negative tariff
    - v. 1 Point for each £ charge against member clubs for contravention of competition rules & directives.





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### **West Cornwall Sunday Football League - Referees' Initiative**

The West Cornwall Sunday Football League has developed a scheme over a period of years which involves all clubs being marked by a Referee following a game. These marks are collated by the league and all clubs achieving an average mark greater than 7.75 gain a share of a financial pot which has been contributed by a local sponsor. The clubs that achieve this mark are guaranteed at least a sum equal to their affiliation fee.

As an example, for the referee to award a score of 10 marks to a team. The following criteria need to be achieved;

*The referee will have the match details confirmed by the home club by the Tuesday before the match. They will be welcomed on their arrival by both teams' Officials. During the match, there will be no dissent, no questioning of decisions (other than politely by the team captain) and no abuse of the referee. There will be minimal, if any, appealing for decisions. It will be clear that every player understands that the referee's decisions are to be respected, right or wrong. The home club will offer*

*the referee half-time refreshments. After the match, the referee will be paid promptly by the home club and, whatever his performance, be offered genuine thanks for his efforts by both teams' officials. Crucially, they will have enjoyed every aspect of their refereeing experience.*

Clubs scoring below the 7.75 threshold have a telephone interview to talk over the problem.

The opening weeks of the 2009/10 have seen an enthusiastic adoption of the scheme by members clubs with the league intent on ensuring that all clubs exceed the set criteria.

Further details on the scheme are available from Bill Lamin - Secretary, West Cornwall Sunday Football League - [billamin@googlemail.com](mailto:billamin@googlemail.com)

## Club Initiatives

**Parkwood Rangers FC** (London/Kent) last season the club successfully trialled the use of Designated Spectator Areas with a zero tolerance of spectators standing on the touchlines. The under 16 girls who piloted the scheme also signed Codes of Conduct which were presented to their league committee. The club has purchased 6 sets of FA Barriers for each of its pitches. Respect flags are also displayed pitch side.

The club have also designed an age appropriate scheme to support the respect programme. The under 5/6 Saturday clubs and primary school girls receive a Respect Player of The Week Trophy. A certificate is provided for those children who can complete a Respect questionnaire.

The clubs website [www.parkwoodrangers.co.uk](http://www.parkwoodrangers.co.uk) also has a dedicated Respect Area which features actual comments heard from pitch side and the Ray Winstone Respect Videos.



FA Chartered Standard Clubs **Rugby Town Juniors** and **Sale United FC** also demonstrate a commitment to high standards of behaviour. The Club's Codes of Conduct and other initiatives dealing with foul language can be downloaded from their websites [www.saleunitedfc.co.uk](http://www.saleunitedfc.co.uk) and [www.rugbytownjfc.co.uk](http://www.rugbytownjfc.co.uk)



Lose Respect  
Lose the game

# Who will you be today?



## Show some Respect

Thousands of referees drop out of the game every season due to abuse.

[TheFA.com/Respect](http://TheFA.com/Respect)

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