

Largs Football Club – Code of Conduct

Version: 01 – Dated 25/06/2025

Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to foster a positive and inclusive culture at Largs Football Club—where playing and watching football is enjoyable, respectful, and rewarding for all. It is designed to create an environment where participants can learn, grow, and have fun while developing football skills and good sportsmanship.

This Code of Conduct will guide decisions made by the Club Committee regarding appropriate behavior by players, coaches, volunteers, parents, and spectators. Compliance with this Code is a condition of club membership.

General Compliance

By registering with Largs FC, participating in club activities, or attending games, all members—including players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and parents—agree to uphold this Code of Conduct. Committee members, coaches, and team managers are also responsible for enforcing it.

1. Players' Code of Conduct

Players are expected to:

- Learn and follow the rules of the game.
- Play for enjoyment and strive to improve skills.
- Be supportive and respectful of teammates.
- Attend training and matches punctually.
- Show respect to coaches, officials, volunteers, teammates, opponents, and spectators.
- Accept referee decisions without argument.
- Raise any concerns first with the coach or team manager. If unresolved, notify them before escalating the issue to the Committee.
- Follow the guidance of coaches and managers.
- Wear the appropriate club uniform, footwear, and shin guards.

Penalties for Players

- First violation: 1-match suspension
- Second violation: 3-match suspension
- Further violations: potential season suspension or expulsion

During suspension, players may not participate in any club matches, training, or events. Severe breaches may result in immediate expulsion at the discretion of the Committee.

2. Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct

Parents and spectators are expected to:

- Show sportsmanship and respect to all participants and officials.
- Encourage fair play and team spirit.
- Be supportive regardless of match results.
- Act in a way that reflects the club's values.
- Avoid vulgar, obscene, or abusive language.
- Not ridicule, bait, threaten, or intimidate others.
- Respect decisions of officials without confrontation.
- Trust and support the role of team coaches and managers.
- Not consume alcohol, drugs, or smoke on or near the playing field.
- Care for facilities at both home and away venues.

Penalties for Parents and Spectators

- First violation: 2-week ban from games and club activities
- Further violations: possible long-term bans or, in extreme cases, suspension of the player's membership due to a parent's behavior.

3. Coaching Philosophy

Largs FC is a grassroots club focused on skill development, inclusion, and enjoyment of football. Coaches and managers play a critical role in fostering this environment.

Youth development is prioritized by providing age-appropriate activities and equal playing opportunities. Players should be encouraged to try different positions, ensuring all-around development.

4. Coach and Manager Code of Conduct

Coaches and managers are expected to:

- Reinforce this Code of Conduct with players and parents.
- Prioritize player wellbeing and safety above winning.
- Support the physical and social development of players.
- Be positive role models—fair, consistent, and encouraging.
- Avoid situations that could lead to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- Provide equal playing opportunities for all players.
- Plan inclusive, engaging training sessions.
- Stay informed on the rules and best practices.
- Maintain open, respectful communication with parents and players.

Penalties for Coaches and Managers

Breaches may lead to suspension from their role, in addition to any official sanctions.

5. Club Committee Members and Volunteers

Committee members and volunteers are expected to:

- Respect the diverse skills of fellow volunteers.
- Act with honesty and integrity in all interactions.
- Ensure equal participation for all players.
- Operate in line with football rules and policies.
- Attend meetings and raise any concerns appropriately.
- Provide guidance, training, and support as needed.
- Encourage high standards of behavior across the club.
- Support teamwork and a positive club environment.
- Avoid situations that could risk accusations of misconduct.

Penalties for Committee Members and Volunteers

Penalties are determined case-by-case by the full Committee (excluding the person under review). In serious cases, support from Hunter Valley Football may be requested.

6. Appeals Process

Anyone sanctioned under this Code has the right to appeal to the Club Executive in writing (email accepted). Appeals must include reasons and relevant evidence.

Once the Executive reviews the appeal and makes a decision, it will be considered final.

Approved by: Largs Football Club Executive Committee

Date: 25 June 2025

