



CODE OF CONDUCT

V2.1 – AUG 2025

PARENTS & SPECTATORS

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember that young people are involved in soccer for their enjoyment and not yours.
- Encourage your child always to play by the laws of the game.
- Teach young children that honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Help young people to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at young players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in the playing of football. If the child is to play, he or she will do so in good time through your encouragement. There are other aspects of football, other than playing, which are equally fulfilling.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from football.
- As a spectator, do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or players.
- Do not publicly question the referees judgement or their honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches, They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for young people.
- Encourage in your child an appreciation of mutual respect for team-mates and opponents.

Parents Match Day Guide

- Stand one meter from the touchline, this gives the players ample space to take quick throw-in's and allows the managers and referees a clear view of the pitch.
- Standing behind the goal or on the goal line is not allowed.
- Do not enter onto the pitch unless summoned by a manager or coach.
- Do not coach players during a match. It only leaves the child confused trying to please you and follow his coaches instruction.
- If you have an idea, a tactic or plan, speak to the coaches, they don't know or see everything.
- Do not criticise the coaches, any questioning should be done out of ear shot of players and other parents.



At Esker Celtic FC, every player has the right to:

- Be safe and protected from harm.
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity, and respect.
- Participate in football on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability and stage of development.
- Receive minimum playing time in line with the FAI Player Development Plan.
- Be happy, have fun, and enjoy football in a supportive environment.
- Make a complaint and have it dealt with through a fair and effective process.
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.
- Be listened to and taken seriously.
- Have a voice in the running of the club.

At Esker Celtic FC, every player should:

General Behaviour and Respect

- Show respect to coaches, team-mates, opponents, match officials, and spectators at all times.
- Play fairly, give their best effort, and enjoy the game.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Accept apologies and make them when needed.
- Treat players from all backgrounds and identities with inclusion and respect.
- Never bully or exclude another player — in person or online.
- Never use abusive or inappropriate language or gestures.
- Support team-mates, both when they succeed and when they struggle.
- Avoid behaviour that reflects poorly on themselves or the club.

Commitment and Responsibility

- Attend training and matches on time, ready to participate.
- Let the coach know as early as possible if you are sick or injured and cannot attend.
- Pack and carry your own gear and ensure you have the correct boots and equipment.
- Help with setting up and tidying away equipment before and after sessions.
- Listen to advice from coaches and ask questions if unsure.
- Take pride in your own development and performance, and respect the efforts of others.

Match Day Conduct

- Shake hands with opponents and the referee before and after each game.
- Offer help to injured players, regardless of team.
- Play with control — never retaliate or lose your temper.
- Celebrate with respect. Do not mock or provoke opponents.



COACHES & MANAGERS

CODE OF CONDUCT

All managers and coaches at Esker Celtic FC are expected to follow this Code of Conduct. It outlines the standards of behaviour that align with the club's child-first philosophy and long-term player development approach.

General Standards

- Uphold the club's values, safeguarding policies, and FAI guidelines at all times.
- Support a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment for all children.
- Prioritise the safety and welfare of every player.

Coaching Behaviour

- Act in the best interests of the players at all times.
- Encourage participation, effort, and enjoyment.
- Promote the development of skills, not just results.
- Teach fair play, teamwork, and learning through both winning and losing.
- Treat all children equally and respectfully.
- Use clear, age-appropriate, and positive language.
- Avoid foul language, shouting, or negative criticism.
- Be calm, honest, and realistic in communication with children.
- Understand how children think and behave; lead with empathy.
- Never contact children directly – all communication must go through parents or guardians.

Match Day Expectations

- Coaches should facilitate play and learning – not control every move.
- Players must be allowed to make decisions and express themselves.
- Rotate players fairly and give all appropriate game time, per Club/FAI guidance.
- Focus on good play (attacking, defending, teamwork), not just the score.
- Ask questions to develop awareness rather than giving constant instructions.
- Ensure respect is shown to referees, opponents, and all participants.
- After each game, players and coaches line up to shake hands.

Club Procedures

- Concerns or complaints should be raised with the Club Children's Officer.
- Any recruitment of an additional coach, assistant coach or helper must be approved under the Clubs Safeguarding Policy on Recruitment prior to the person taking an active part in training or matches.

