



CHARTER STANDARD
COMMUNITY CLUB



SUTTON UNITED FC COLTS

Affiliated Grassroots Boys Section

CLUB RULES & CONSTITUTION

Season 2022/23

MISSION STATEMENT

Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts are the official boy's grassroots section of Sutton United FC. We are in a unique position as a grassroots club and as such we expect the highest level of behaviour from all players, managers, coaches, parent/guardians, and spectators. You will be expected to conduct yourself well at all matches, during training and other organised events. Coaches and players, when wearing the club badge in public, represent the club and everything it stands for within the community.

We understand that we are not in any way to be considered as the Sutton United FC Academy, as they are a separate entity.

All Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents/Guardians and Spectators should adhere to the following:

- Understand and promote fair play & The Respect Campaign.
- Respect others: behaving towards them in the way you would like them to behave towards you.
- Create a positive, supportive environment for football, whereby all aspects of play are praised and mistakes, whether by a player, match official or others are not ridiculed or questioned.
- Appreciate the importance of effort, of performance and striving to win, rather than winning itself.
- Abide by the Club Rules & Constitution, and within it, the Codes of Conduct on fair play and the internal discipline procedure, written policies, and anti-discrimination / equal opportunities laws.

Although the club rules may appear lengthy, the message is a simple one. We want everyone involved in Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts to enjoy their football. The section expects everyone to behave in a manner that reflects well on the club, and those that do not to be dealt with in a fair, but firm procedure.

All managers, players, parents & guardians, when completing the registration process, agree to abide by and observe the rules of the club. All Managers, Assistants, Coaches & Admin Staff by the very nature of performing a role within the club, must abide by the Club Rules & Constitution.

1. CLUB NAME

1.1 The grassroots section of the club shall be called '**Sutton United FC Colts** aka **Sutton United Colts**' and shall be open to players from U7 to U16 age groups. The club shall affiliate to the Surrey County Youth Football Association.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The object of the club shall be to provide association football and organised coaching for its members and such social and recreational pursuits as may be deemed desirable by the club.
- 2.2 The club is to make available to all its members such facilities to promote progressive football from mini soccer 5v5 through to 11v11 level, in a safe environment.
- 2.3 The section aims to promote 'development football' between the ages of U7 to U11 and will then strive to continue that development to a higher standard from U12 to U16. We aim to focus players and managers/coach's minds on the selection of players who would reach the highest level of football available. At no time should this be the sole focus as it should be encompassed in a player's development also.
- 2.4 To comply with and actively support the strategy and targets of the Committee who have been elected by the Managers throughout the section.

3. CLASSIFICATION

- 3.1 The section will be governed, and all its activities controlled by the Club Executive Committee ("**Club Executive**")
- 3.2 In addition, we recognise that we are affiliated to Sutton United FC and must abide by the directions, within reason, of its governing body.
- 3.3 Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts will be sub-divided into two overall sections.

Development Football incorporating at least two teams in every age group from U7 to U11.

Higher Competitive Development Football incorporating two teams in every age group from U12 to U16.

- 3.4 This season the main club has decided that we can no longer wear replica kits to that of the first team due to the conception of the Academy. The section will, however, wear colours in line with Sutton United F.C. for both home and away strips. Where alternative kit is used it must be ordered through the Company designated by the Committee to ensure it is suitable. The only change would be as a result of affordability.
- 3.5 Kit supplied by the club to a team can bear a sponsorship logo without the prior consent of the main club or Club Executive. However, the logo must in no way cause offence to any person or contain abusive words or pictures. All kit and accessories must be supplied by the company as designated by The Committee.

4. MEMBERSHIP, FEES & AGREEMENTS

- 4.1 The members of the Club from time to time shall be those persons listed in the register of members (the "Membership Register") which shall be maintained by the Club Secretary via the LoveAdmin and Whole Game Systems. Members will be all Club Officials, Players, Managers, Coaches and Administrative Assistants.
- 4.2 Members with active roles within the club ("FA Volunteer Members") must complete the correct registration for their involvement and hold the appropriate qualifications specified by the Committee.
- 4.3 Election to 'membership' shall be at the discretion of the Club Executive and granted in accordance with the anti-discrimination and equality policies which are in place. An appeal against refusal may be made to the Club Executive in writing. Membership shall become effective upon an applicant's name being entered in the Membership Register via the LoveAdmin and Whole Game System and thereafter being approved by the Club Executive Committee.
- 4.4 In the event of a member's resignation or expulsion, his or her name shall be removed from the Membership Register.
- 4.5 An annual subscription for players will be set by the Club Executive Management Committee at the AGM. The fee, which may vary from season to season, will include costs of the hire of match day pitches, maintenance of playing and training venues, hire of Holmwood Close, training facilities, match day kit, equipment, league/county memberships, insurance cover, and from this season, the bursary payments for the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures/Referee Secretary and Social Media & Communications Secretary. Training kit, tracksuits, bags, and other accessories will be supplied at the cost to the individual teams (often paid for by outside sponsorships).
- 4.6 In addition to the benefits in the rule above, each fee-paying player will receive an option to buy half-price early bird season tickets for Sutton United FC home league matches, at First, reserve or Youth level. This does not include cup matches. Admission is strictly on presentation of a valid membership card to an authorised club representative or via turnstile. The section is no longer involved in season ticket allocation.
- 4.7 Annual player's subscriptions outstanding by 31st August of each season may result in the withholding of the players registration, their automatic expulsion from games or training unless alternative payment terms have been agreed by the Club Executive and the Treasurer.
- 4.8 The supply of additional match day sportswear is at the discretion of the Club Executive and remains the property of Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts as does the initial kit supplied. The match kit is supplied by the Colts and consists of a match shirt, match shorts, match socks, a ¼ zip top and jacket as a minimum. The kit is supplied new every second season, and this will be the first season in the 2nd year agreement. This kit is and remains the property of Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts throughout the 2-year period. The subscription payment gives the ability for the kit to be purchased. If a player leaves by consent or through any other means, they must return the full kit to the manager if within the 2-year period. If this agreement is not met, there would be no consideration to a refund of subscriptions in part or whole. The kit must be returned before refunds are processed. All managers kit supplied also falls under the same rules. Any loss of kit will result in a cost for a replacement based on the circumstances of the loss.
- 4.9 Any kit or outstanding fees retained by a player or Volunteers Member against the club's request in 4.8 will deemed to be a debt, as defined by Surrey County Rules. The club will register that debt with the FA, which will render that player or manager in a position where they will be

unable to register with another club until this is settled. The debtor will be informed of this via writing or email.

- 4.10 The Club Executive will have the discretion from time to time to levy any additional fees, which are deemed reasonable to fulfil the objectives of the club.
- 4.11 All other costs associated with running a team will be the manager's responsibility including referee's fees and additional equipment.
- 4.12 Teams will register a minimum of the following: - 5 v 5 - 8 players, 7 v 7 - 10 players, 9 v 9 - 13 players, 11 v 11 - 16 players. Any teams not reaching their minimum will be required to cover the cost equal to the minimum amount that would have been collected in fees.
- 4.13 A 50% reduction in subscription will apply if two or more players register from the same family. The sibling in the higher age group is to pay the full price. The 50% applies to the second sibling based on their annual subscription cost.
- 4.14 The Treasurer may decide on 'payment plans' for some players where the circumstances are of an *exceptional* nature. This is not a matter of players or parents paying in instalments because it suits their own means.
- 4.15 If a 'Payment Plan' is in place, that person will be expected to adhere to it, or face 'suspension' or expulsion from the club. The club will also consider reporting the debt to the FA, which may result in the member being suspended from all football under the FA until the debt is settled. If a scheduled payment is missed the 'Payment Plan' shall be deemed as void and full payment must be made before 31st August or before the player can play or train after that date.
- 4.16 A player who is not on a 'payment plan' and fails to pay after a LoveAdmin or Treasurers request, will be contacted and reminded of the need to pay immediately. If this is ignored or not actioned immediately, they may be deemed to have resigned and be removed from the Club Register, instigating the kit recovery rules. A player who has not paid by 31st August 2022, will not be given their club kit.
- 4.17 The Club Executive shall have the power to expel a member when, in their majority opinion, it would not be in the Club's interest for that person to remain a member. There shall be no rights of appeal in respect of an immediate expulsion. This can be for any breach of the club rules.
- 4.18 A member who resigns or is expelled will not be entitled to claim against any member or property of the Club.
- 4.19 A player who resigns or is expelled will not be entitled to claim back any remuneration from the club. However, they may request remuneration via email explaining their request and justification.

5. CLUB EXECUTIVE

- 5.1 Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts Executive shall be made up of the following positions; Chairperson, Club Secretary, Treasurer, Communications & Social Media Secretary & Referee/Fixtures Secretary. The five positions are the only required Executive positions in order to run the section. The roles will also cover Child Welfare Officer, CWO/DBS, Qualifications & Training. All will be elected at the annual general meeting (A.G.M.) Other nominated officers may be elected from time to time.
- 5.2 Three elected executive officers may from time to time make an executive decision on behalf of the Committee where it is deemed necessary. The elected officers must unanimously agree on such a decision, and it be recorded at the subsequent Executive meeting.
- 5.3 The Section shall be controlled by a Club Executive Committee consisting of at least one member selected from the Club managers. These can be managers, parents, or those outside of these remits who are vetted by the section. The Executive Committee shall meet when deemed necessary and the proceedings shall be duly recorded. At executive committee meetings three members shall form a quorum.
- 5.4 Minutes will be recorded by the Club Secretary and headlines distributed electronically to managers within 14 working days of the executive committee meeting.

6. POWERS OF THE CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.1 The property and assets of Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts shall be vested in the Club Executive Committee. The committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies arising in its membership between the AGM's. The committee shall have jurisdiction over any matter not provided for in the club's rules and constitution.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 All general correspondence will be addressed to the Club Secretary who shall conduct all club correspondence unless it is divulged to another member due to the relevance of their position. Where correspondence is destined for a specific member of the Committee that should be allowed and dealt with appropriately.

7.2 The club will affiliate to such bodies as it feels are appropriate and in the best interests of the club and its players. Currently these bodies are: -

- Sutton United FC (EFL Club)
- Surrey County FA
- Surrey Youth League

7.3 The club will confirm that the secretary will be the administrative link between the affiliated bodies and day to day membership matters. Other club executives can liaise with the affiliated bodies where appropriate.

7.4 This club representative will perform such duties as their respective League/County requires and will be re-elected at the A.G.M.

7.5 Manager's will be permitted to speak with their league fixtures secretaries but should not contact the affiliated bodies unless directly contacted by them, and only then by cc'ing the secretary.

8. DISCIPLINARY CODE OF CONDUCT

8.1 Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts will adopt the Football Associations Code of Conduct for Football, Coaches, Players, Team Officials and Parents/Spectators, whilst adding conditions as felt appropriate and as a result of previous learning

Full details of each code are referred to in Section 19.0

9. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY STATEMENT

9.1 Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

9.2 The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.

- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/guardians is essential.
- We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. We recognise that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

9.3 Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

9.4 We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers, and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
- Request identification documents.
- As a minimum, a committee member will meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them.
- Request references before appointing someone, where felt appropriate.
- Require an FA CRB (DBS) Unit Enhanced Disclosure from all persons, in line with FA guidelines.

9.5 All current Club members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via CRC/DBS procedure through the Child Welfare Officer. If there are concerns regarding the

appropriateness of an individual who is already involved, or who has approached us to become part of our club, guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via The FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people. It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

9.6 We support the FA's whistle blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@thefa.com or Wembley Stadium, Wembley, London HA9 0WS or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Services or the NSPCC. Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

9.7 Sutton United FC and Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts have appointed a Club Welfare Officer in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person, unless there is an urgent need to contact the Police immediately. The Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice, and abuse amongst club members.

9.8 We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer. In cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

9.9 Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials, and Coaches have been implemented by us. To validate these Respect codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.

9.10 Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if you are worried about a child, it is important that you report your concerns – **no action is not an option.**

9.10.1 If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.

9.10.2 If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either: deal with the matter themselves or seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer

9.10.3 If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services.

9.10.4 If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.

9.10.5 If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer, or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:

Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly, contact the Police or Children's Services, call The FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or Deaf users text phone 0800 056 0566

NB – The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via www.TheFA.com website – click on the 'downloads' under Policy and Procedures. The policy outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams which describe this process. How to make a referral is also covered in the Safeguarding Children workshop. Participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation. For more information on this workshop contact your County Welfare Officer.

9.11 Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from the current Child Welfare Officers whose details can be found on the Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts website.

9.12 The club executive committee have received numerous 'safeguarding' allegations from parents when their son has not played enough minutes on a pitch, or they feel their son is being hampered in their football development in some way or that parents have been overzealous in their support of a team. Our executive committee has policing expertise within it, and we are fully aware of what 'safeguarding' is. Allegations such as this do not fall within 'safeguarding' as it can water-down what a true safeguarding matter is, as described above. Allegations such as this will be dealt with as a complaint only. All allegations will be investigated appropriately and as individual incidents.

10. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY STATEMENT

10.1 Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts is committed to confronting and eliminating all forms of discrimination and to encourage equal opportunities for all. Its policy is therefore, not to treat any person or persons more or less favourably than any other person within the context of the sport, nor will it tolerate discriminatory behaviour from any person involved in the club.

10.2 The club expects all those involved with the football to abide by the requirements of the Race Relations Acts 1976, Sex Discrimination Act 1986 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and to follow the codes of practice issued from time to time by the Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

10.3 It follows that discrimination on any grounds or failure to provide equal opportunity for all will be a breach of the Rules of the Club and will render the person involved subject to disciplinary action. If you think the club or anyone involved in it is – or may be – guilty of an act of discrimination or a failure to provide equal opportunities for all, please contact the general secretary or the chairman.

11. RECRUITMENT POLICY

11.1 Any member recruited for participation in the welfare of children will be required to complete a Disclosure Application Form as recommended by the FA's Criminal Records Bureau (DBS). Forms are available online and assistance is provided from the Club's designated child protection person, as detailed in 9.11 above, who will be authorised to certify compliance to the CRB's requirements.

11.2 All managers/coaches must have gained a minimum FA Level One coaching certificate with the FA 1st Aid and Child Safeguarding in date.

11.3 To be involved in part of the custody of a child, the coach/manager/assistant must hold a valid Child Safeguarding Qualification at all times.

11.4 Any coach being used by a team who is not registered or known to the executive committee will NOT be permitted to coach any players within our club. If this is found out by the committee or is deliberately being hidden from the committee, the coaching team will face disciplinary action from the committee and be subject to its full sanctions. We will also consider reporting the coach to the FA.

12. MATCHES

12.1 All managers must acquaint themselves with the rules and constitution of the club and the league in which they have registered. Details of rules can be provided by the respective league secretary / representative.

12.2 All registered players in **Mini Soccer** should obtain a minimum of one half of play each game in line with the F.A. best practice. We actively encourage that, between the U7 and U11 age groups, players should play the same amount of time in any given match. There are systems to make sure that time is spread equally for all players to grow together as a team and understand the importance of participation rather than winning at all costs.

12.3 From U12 to U16, the manager has more discretion to play his team how he chooses.

13. TRAINING

13.1 Training facilities will be made available by the club and venues agreed at the AGM.

13.2 Managers/Coaches must agree a meeting point prior to the designated training time and escort all players to and from the training venue if required. Time allocations must be strictly adhered to.

13.3 The Code of Conduct referred to in rule 8.1 will apply at these training facilities.

The team coach will be responsible for upholding the code of conduct.

13.4 There will be a strict **NO SMOKING** policy adopted at training/playing facilities. This includes the confines of the 'changing rooms' and within 10 yards of a pitch at any of our designated grounds. Parents or supporters should be informed of this policy by the manager's or their assistants, this being part of the expectations of a manager.

14. REGISTRATION

14.1 Managers wishing to run a team within the club framework must complete the Manager's registration on LoveAdmin. Applications will be valid for the current season and will be deemed to have expired at the end of each season. By registering, they will fully agree to abide by the club rules and constitution.

14.2 All players wishing to play for Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts must register for the club via LoveAdmin, with a parent who also registers. Applications will be valid for the current season and will be deemed to have expired at the end of each season. By registering, both will fully agree to abide by the club rules and constitution.

14.3 The annual subscription for players registration set in accordance with rule 4 shall be payable on or before 31st August of each new season.

14.4 Should a player have his registration cancelled for any reason any refund of the annual subscription will be at the absolute discretion of the Executive Committee and based on a pro-rata scale.

15. FINANCE

15.1 Books of the club's accounts shall be kept and audited annually. Receipts for all monies received shall be kept by the treasurer, who shall also keep a bank account on behalf of the club.

15.2 Finance's for the section should be made available for viewing by any other Committee Member upon request.

15.3 At least two members of the elected Committee should have financial access to the bank account. The elected Treasurer has control of the accounts daily.

15.4 The elected Treasurer must sign off any requests for Payment Plans from players or their parents/guardian's. Anyone who has not had their plan authorised in this manner will be deemed to not have paid and may be refused access to training or matches.

15.5 The Treasurer will ensure that all invoices are paid within the required time.

15.6 Any purchases on behalf of the club may only be completed by elected Committee members and should be sanctioned by the Treasurer, unless required as a known matter of course or as an emergency purchase.

15.7 Any purchases should be brought to the attention of the Treasurer as soon as practicable and be backed up by evidence of a purchase in the form of an invoice or receipt.

15.8 It is the intention of the section never to go into debt of any kind and it is the responsibility of the Treasurer to monitor and predict if this is the case and bring any concerns directly to the Committee.

16. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

16.1 The annual general meeting shall take place no later than the 10th June in each year. Thirty days' notice should be given to each member. The season ends for a team and manager at their last game, whether a league or cup fixture. Managers are not signed until their contract is complete and they have been accepted.

17. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

17.1 An extraordinary meeting may be convened by the management committee when deemed desirable and upon the written request of thirty members of the club. Thirty days' notice must be given to all members unless urgency is a priority.

18. ALTERATION TO THE RULES

18.1 Alteration to the rules shall be made by the executive committee and details given at the AGM. An extraordinary meeting can be convened for that purpose unless it has been agreed that the Rules required updating at the AGM and it has been agreed that the process be conducted by the Secretary and Chairman. The draft should then be examined, and a final copy be signed off by the entire Exec Committee.

19. CODES OF CONDUCT

The FA Coaches Association Code of Conduct

Coaches are key to the establishment of ethics within football. Their concept of ethics and their attitude directly affects the behaviour of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct. Coaches must be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications. It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate themselves from a win-at-all-costs attitude. Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a priority, before the achievement of the reputation of the club, school, coach or parent. The FA Coaches Association Code of Conduct reflects the standards expressed by the National Coaching Foundation and the National Association of Sports Coaches.

Code of Conduct for Coaches

- Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts must be distinguishable as coaches and therefore must wear the kit supplied to them. They must not wear any other 'soccer school' or team kit when representing the section and club. If they are not supplied kit as an additional coach, they should wear normal sportswear and again, not that of a soccer school or other team. Breach of this rule will carry with it sanctions or expulsion.
- Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
- Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by the Rules of The Football Association.
- Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct, or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of players.
- Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, the parents) exactly what is expected of them and what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g., other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.

- Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g., Fair Play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Coaches must not use or tolerate inappropriate language or behaviour.

Code of conduct for players

- Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game. But not winning at any cost – Fair Play and respect for all others in the game is fundamentally important. This code focuses on players involved in top-class football. Nevertheless, the key concepts in the code are valid for players at all levels.

Obligations towards the game

A player should:

- Make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities in terms of skills, technique, tactics, fitness and stamina.
- Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game, even if his team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
- Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- Avoid all forms of gamesmanship, and time-wasting.
- Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- Not use inappropriate language.

Obligations towards their own team

A player should:

- Make every effort to be consistent with Fair Play and the Laws of the Game to help his own team win.
- Resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning.
- Respect all team members, treating them fairly and as an equal.

Respect for the Laws of the Game and Competition Rules

A player should:

- Know and abide by the laws, rules and spirit of the game, and the competition rules.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally and with dignity and respect.
- Resist any temptation to take banned substances or used banned techniques.

Respect towards opponents & officials

A player should:

- Treat opponents with due respect always, irrespective of the result of the game.
- Safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violent and rough play, and help injured opponents.

Respect towards the match officials

A player should:

- Accept the decision of the match official without protest.
- Avoid words or actions which may mislead a match official.
- Show due respect towards match officials.

Respect towards team officials

A player should:

- Abide by the instructions of their coach and team officials, provided they do not contradict the spirit of this code.
- Show due respect towards the team officials of the opposition.

Obligations towards the supporters

A player should:

- Show respect to all supporters of both teams.

Code of Conduct for team officials

This Code applies to all team/club officials (although some items may not apply to all officials).

Obligations towards the game

The team official should:

- Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- Promote and develop their own team having regard to the interest of the players, supporters and reputation of the national game.
- Share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interest of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests.
- Avoid all forms of gamesmanship.
- Show due respect to Match Officials and others involved in the game.
- Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- Not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

Obligations towards the team

The team official should:

- Make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the club/team, and to obtain the best results by the team, using all permitted means.
- Give priority to the interests of the team over individual interests.
- Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques.
- Promote ethical principles.
- Show due respect to the interests of players, coaches and other officials, at their own club/team and others.

Obligations towards the supporters

The team official should:

- Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

Respect towards the match officials

A team official should:

- Accept the decisions of the Match Official without protest.
- Avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official.
- Show due respect towards Match Officials.

Code of conduct for parents/spectators

Parents/spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they first and foremost love the game – it's fun. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football within your club, it is important to reinforce the message to parents/spectators that positive encouragement will contribute to:

- Children enjoying football
- A sense of personal achievement
- Self-esteem
- Improvement in the child's skills and techniques.

A parent's/spectator's expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards:

- Other players
- Officials
- Managers

- Spectators.

Ensure that parents/spectators within your club are always positive and encouraging towards all the children, not just their own.

Encourage parents/spectators to:

- Applaud the opposition as well as your own team.
- Avoid coaching the child during the game.
- Not to shout and scream.
- Respect the referee's decision.
- Give attention to each of the children involved in football, not just the most talented.
- Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football.

Ensure that parents/spectators within your club agree and adhere to your club's Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy.

Please note: By ensuring that the relevant groups have signed up to the appropriate code of conduct our club will be able to apply the club's sanctions and deal with any inappropriate conduct with clarity.

20. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- Upon receipt of any internal or external complaint against a Manager, Assistant, Coach, Player, Parent/Guardian, Supporter, Volunteer or team, the Executive Committee shall convene by email, Zoom or in person to discuss.
- The Executive Committee shall take any action that 3 or more of them agree upon. This can range from a written warning to an immediate dismissal.
- Inappropriate behaviour or language by any club official or volunteer should be challenged immediately and reported to the Executive Committee.
- Any team manager may take disciplinary action against any player for an alleged breach of the club rules. Such action must be notified in writing, with a copy to the Club Executive.
- Any team manager may report to the Club Executive any parent, guardian, or other club member for an alleged breach of the Club rules. The Club Executive shall then investigate the complaint before taking any action, but if the complaint is deemed to be held then it may take any disciplinary action it considers appropriate, in line with Club rules. Such action must be notified in writing. This may include immediate dismissal with no appeal to our section if deemed serious enough.
- Should any person having been disciplined by the club wish to lodge an appeal then that appeal must be lodged with the Club Executive within seven days of receipt of the written notice of disciplinary action. On receipt of any appeal, the Club Executive shall arrange for an appeal hearing as soon as is practicable for all parties. This will take place in front of at least 3 members of the Club Executive Committee. The person who is under the proceedings will have an opportunity to bring evidence or witnesses in front of the Committee. This may now take place via Zoom or an equivalent.

- The appeals process will conclude at that hearing or, if further consultation is required, will be concluded by letter within 7 days. Any hearing will ensure that all relevant persons are invited to give evidence and state their case.
- ***The decision of the panel shall be final, although this does not preclude the subject of any confirmed disciplinary action from making a further appeal to the Surrey County Football Association in accordance with that bodies own rules. It should be understood, no body outside of Sutton United FC Colts aka Sutton United Colts, can force our section to re-instate a player, parent, coach or manager who has been dismissed from our section on a decision from our own Executive Committee. In signing or agreeing to this document online, this will be accepted by the signee.***
- ***If deemed appropriate, we will consult the main club as mediator.***

This document was updated on 30th May 2022.

Mr Michael Nicholson

CHAIRMAN

2022/23 Season