



# Coalville Town Youth FC Player Disciplinary Policy

## Disciplinary Policy

The emphasis of this Disciplinary Policy is in the first instance, on the improvement of the Players behaviour by working in partnership with them, and where relevant their parent/guardian, rather than just on imposing sanctions. Coalville Town Youth FC will, however, impose sanctions in the most serious cases or where improvement in the Player's behaviour has not been forthcoming.

Coalville Town Youth FC's aim is to ensure consistent and fair treatment for all members and no disciplinary action will be taken against a member until a full investigation as to the circumstances of the incident or matter has been conducted by Coalville Town Youth FC.

This procedure is designed to help and encourage all members of Coalville Town Youth FC (hereinafter the Club) to achieve and maintain standards of behaviour as detailed within the club's Players Code of Conduct, <sup>1</sup> Players Behaviour Policy, <sup>2</sup> Anti-Bullying Policy, <sup>3</sup> and the Equality Policy. <sup>4</sup> Our aim is to ensure consistent and fair treatment for all members.

The age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10 years old. This means that children under 10 can't be arrested or charged with a crime. <sup>5</sup> In common law two separate standards of proof are recognised

- Beyond all Reasonable Doubt
- Balance of Probabilities

The former is the standard adopted while dealing with criminal cases whilst the latter is the standard in use in cases of civil matters.

Whilst using this disciplinary policy the proof will be on a balance of probabilities and taking positive action of players from the age of 10 years old to correct behaviour within the grassroots football arena.

Those who seek to use this policy must and will insure that the Player understands Right from Wrong. Where necessary the learning outcomes will be facilitated by parents/guardians and Club Officials at Coalville Town Youth FC.

The purpose of this policy is not to punish but to correct behaviour and have positive role models within football.

## Principles

The Disciplinary Committee will consist of the Club Welfare Officer and a minimum of one more member of the Club Committee.

A meeting will be convened within 14 days of the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and the member will be notified in writing (Email or Text) of the nature of their failure to maintain the standards detailed in the Code.

<sup>1</sup> Coalville Town Youth Player Code of Conduct Policy 2023-004-1

<sup>2</sup> Coalville Town Youth Player Behaviour Policy 2023-004.2

<sup>3</sup> Coalville Town Youth Anti-Bullying Policy 2023-003.1

<sup>4</sup> Coalville Town Equality Policy 2023-001.1

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/youth-crime>



# Coalville Town Youth FC Player Disciplinary Policy

On the day of the incident giving rise to the breach of the Player Code of Conduct,<sup>6</sup> the matter should be reported to the Club Secretary or Vice Chairman in their absence, by the team Coach/Manager or Welfare Officer. If the Club Secretary considers that a potential breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred, the matter will be passed to the Welfare Officer who will coordinate the investigation and institute the disciplinary procedure.

Player will be notified of the time, date, and venue of the meeting by letter or email. They will be required to confirm attendance no later than 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting. The player will be required to attend with their parent/guardian if applicable, if they are under 18, who may make a representation on their behalf. The Player and or their representative will be given an opportunity to state their case prior to any decision being made by the Disciplinary Committee.

No disciplinary action will be taken against a player until a full investigation as to the circumstances of the incident have been conducted by the club.

At all stages of the investigation the player will be required to be accompanied by their parent/guardian, if they are under 18 years old, who may make representations on their behalf and confirm that the player fully understands the potential breach of the code, the procedure taking place and the sanction, if any, imposed by the Disciplinary Committee. All aspects of the investigation will remain confidential.

No Player will be dismissed from the Club for a first breach of the Code of Conduct except in cases where there has been a Gross Misconduct as detailed below. In those circumstances a specific procedure will be followed. As explained previously the policy is to correct behaviour that is deemed to have dropped below the standards the Club expects from its Players at all times.

A Player will have the right to appeal against any disciplinary action imposed. An appeal should be addressed to the Club Secretary and submitted within seven days from the date that the Disciplinary Committee's decision is communicated to the member.

## Procedure

### Stage 1 – Verbal Warning and or Reflective Practice\*\*

If the conduct is deemed to be in breach of the standards laid down in the Clubs Code of Conduct<sup>7</sup> or FA England,<sup>8</sup> a Player will in the first instance be given a verbal warning. The Player and their parent/guardian will be advised of the reason for the warning and notified that this is the first stage of the Disciplinary Procedure. He or she will be notified that they have a right to appeal, the timescale upon which the appeal should be submitted to the Club Secretary for the Club's further consideration.

A note of the verbal warning will be kept by the Club Secretary but will be discarded after 12 months or in line with the present requirements of the Data Protection Act. Where a follow up review is necessary, the Player will be advised of this and the timescales for review. In those circumstances, an action plan will be mutually agreed with the member or parent/guardian if under 18, and a mentor appointed by the Club.

<sup>6</sup> Coalville Town Youth Player Code of Conduct Policy 2023-004-1

<sup>7</sup> Coalville Town Youth Player Code of Conduct Policy 2023-004-1

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.EnglandFootball.com/participate/explore/inclusive-football/Respect>



# Coalville Town Youth FC Player Disciplinary Policy

It may be that the Player may work on Reflective Practice with his manager/coach to encourage learning from the incident/event and correct unwanted behaviour. Please see appendix.

## **Stage 2 – Written Warning**

If the matter is more serious or there is a further breach of the Code of Conduct, then a written warning will be given to the Player. This will explain the reason for the warning, the improvement in conduct required and the timescale. Further, if there is no improvement the action detailed in Stage 3 may be considered. The right of appeal against this decision will be advised and explained to the member. An action plan will be mutually agreed with the member or parent/guardian if under 18, and a mentor appointed by the Club. A copy of the written warning will be kept by the Club Secretary, but will be discarded for disciplinary purposes after 12 months subject to satisfactory conduct

## **Stage 3 – Final Written Warning**

If there is still a failure to improve and conduct is still unsatisfactory, or if the matter is sufficiently serious to warrant only one written warning but insufficiently serious to justify dismissal from the club, a final written warning will be given by the Committee. This will explain the reason for the warning, the improvement required and the timescale. An action plan will be mutually agreed with the Player or parent/guardian if under 18, and a mentor appointed by the Club. It will also warn that dismissal from the Club will result if there is no improvement and will advise the right of appeal. The Club Secretary will hold a copy of the final written warning, but it will be disregarded for disciplinary purposes after 12 months subject to satisfactory conduct.

## **Stage 4 – Dismissal from the Club**

If the conduct is still unsatisfactory and the Player still fails to reach the required standards or the conduct is regarded as serious gross misconduct then dismissal from the club will usually result. Only the Club Committee of at least three can take the decision to dismiss the player. The Player will be provided, as soon as practicable, a written explanation for dismissal, the date upon which membership will terminate and the right of appeal.

## **Gross Misconduct**

The following list gives examples of behaviour that are normally regarded as gross misconduct:

1. Fighting or Encouragement of
2. Assault/Spitting on another person or Encouragement of
3. Deliberate damage to Club property or Encouragement of
4. Bringing the Club into disrepute by actions or words
5. Serious negligence or disregard of the Club Rules that causes, or could have caused loss, damage or injury.
6. Serious acts of insubordination. Including the failure to follow or observe reasonable instructions of the team manager/coach/assistant/or any member acting in the capacity of.



# Coalville Town Youth FC Player Disciplinary Policy

## Procedure

In the event that a Player of the Club is alleged of gross misconduct by a match referee or other authority, the player shall be automatically suspended; pending investigation or disciplinary hearing according to the Club's policy or when superseded by County FA Policies and procedures.

1. The Player will not play in a match nor be allowed to train until an emergency meeting of the Club Committee has been convened.
2. An emergency meeting of the Club Disciplinary Committee will be convened within 2 weeks of the incident. This will comprise of a Welfare Officer, Discipline Officer and other Committee members to constitute a quorum of three. The committee members will be mutually agreed by the Welfare Officer and Discipline Officer.
3. The Player involved will be asked to attend the meeting and will be accompanied by a parent/guardian or other representative.
4. The Player will be asked to recall the incident, to confirm that they understand the charges, explain their actions and to answer questions regarding the incident with the agreement of their parent/guardian or representative. Witnesses may be called by Players charged with serious/gross misconduct. The Club also reserves the right to call witnesses if deemed appropriate.
5. At the end of the hearing once all the evidence has been heard the player and or their representative will be entitled to make a closing submission to the Disciplinary Committee.
6. After the closing submissions, all other persons shall withdraw whilst the Committee considers the evidence and submissions. It will determine whether the breach has been proved or not and what actions are to be taken as a result.
7. The Player will be recalled to the meeting and notified of the Committee's decision which will be confirmed in writing.
8. Should a Player charged with serious/gross misconduct not attend the Disciplinary Meeting then a decision will be made in their absence and the decision of the Committee will be confirmed in writing to the address noted on their registration document.

The Committee have the authority to take whatever action is appropriate within the club rules and constitution. In the most serious of cases this could lead to dismissal from the club.

Players/parents will be expected to pay any fines imposed by the League or County FA in relation to such an incident.

## Appeals

**A Player who wishes to appeal against any disciplinary decision should inform the Club Secretary within seven days.** At the appeal any disciplinary action proposed will be reviewed by members of the Committee/Club Welfare Team **not** involved in the original hearing or investigation and **independent** to the first hearing. The members must constitute a quorum of three.

The Player will be notified of the outcome of the appeal in writing within seven days of the appeal hearing.



# Coalville Town Youth FC Player Disciplinary Policy

## Committees

Club Committees

**The Disciplinary Committee is made up from any of the following roles:**

1. The Clubs Chairperson/Secretary.
2. Welfare Officer.
3. Assistant Welfare Officer.
4. Disciplines Officer.
5. Independent Managers/Coaches of the allegations or incident

**The Appeals Committee is made up from any of the following roles all independent of first hearing:**

1. The Clubs Treasurer.
2. Club Secretary.
3. Supporting Welfare Officers.
4. Legal Advisor.
5. Any **Committee** member **independent** to the Disciplinary Committee.

If one of the above of the committee members is deemed to prejudice the disciplinary hearing or appeal, then a long standing /experienced committee member may be co-opted onto the relevant committee.

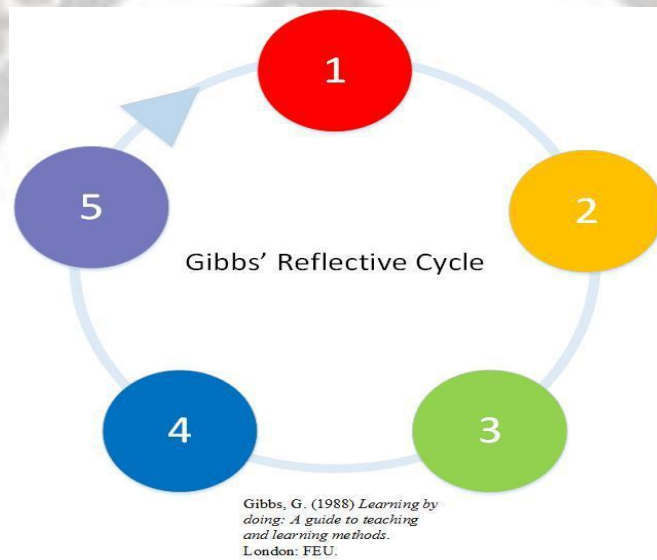
Members of the club include Manager/Coach/Assistants/Players/Chair Person/ Club Secretary/Welfare Officer/Legal Advisor/Disciplines Officer/Treasurer and all other staff either paid or otherwise linked directly or indirectly with the club.

# Coalville Town Youth FC Player Disciplinary Policy

Appendix\*\*

## Gibbs' Reflective Cycle

This model might help you to explore and learn from situations that occur, particularly if the outcome was unexpected or it was a negative experience.



### 1. Description

Describe the event – when and where. Why you were there? Who else was there? What happened? How did you react? How did others react? What was the outcome?

### 2. Feelings

How were your thoughts and feelings at the time? What did you feel before and after? How did others feel? How do you feel about it now?

### 3. Evaluation/analysis

What worked and what didn't work – positive or negative outcomes. What went well or not so well? Did you or others make a positive or negative contribution?

### 4. Conclusions

What did you learn? What would you do differently in future? Any skills or knowledge you need to develop?

### 5. Action

What will you do about it? Do you need to make changes to your practice? Have you identified any areas to work on?



# Coalville Town Youth FC Player Disciplinary Policy

The log on the following page is based on Gibbs' reflective cycle.

Reflective Log

<b>Incident</b>
Describe what happened: -
<b>Action</b>
Do you need to make changes to your behaviour?
What action will you take?
What are the first steps?
Describe your learning?