

Hough End Griffins Junior Football Club

Code of Conduct & Behaviour Policy



Purpose

At Hough End Griffins, we are more than a football club—we are a community. We believe in creating a welcoming and positive environment where every player can thrive, learn, and enjoy the game. Whether you're on the pitch, on the touchline, or behind the scenes, you play an important role in shaping the Griffins experience.

We pride ourselves on exemplary behaviour, particularly during matches. Every member of the Griffins family—players, coaches, parents, carers, and volunteers—has a responsibility to uphold our values and help foster a respectful and supportive atmosphere.

1. Our Values – The Griffins Way

Our culture is built on four key values that guide how we play, support, and grow together:

Commitment: We show up consistently, prepared to give our best—bringing energy, effort, and dedication to every session, match, and moment, whether we're playing, coaching, supporting, or cheering from the sidelines.

Teamwork: We understand that success is shared. We listen, communicate, and help each other improve—on and off the field.

Fair Play: We play the game the right way—by respecting the rules, taking responsibility for our actions, and showing honesty and integrity in everything we do, both on and off the pitch.

Respect: We treat everyone with dignity—referees, teammates, opponents, coaches, and spectators. We celebrate positive behaviour and call out anything that falls short of our standards.

Together, these Griffins values help create a safe and enjoyable environment for all, especially our young players, and ensure that football at HEG is something everyone can be proud to be part of. (See 002 HEG Football Philosophy)

2. Code of Conduct – What We Expect

Hough End Griffins Management System

Players

- Represent the club with pride, fairness, and integrity at all times.
- Show respect to all involved in the game.
- Accept referee decisions with dignity.
- Take responsibility for behaviour on and off the pitch.
- We all make mistakes – what’s important is to learn from them.

Coaches & Volunteers

- Lead calmly and consistently by example.
- Support player learning and well-being over results.
- Use positive reinforcement to build confidence, resilience, and enjoyment in every session.
- Promote fair play, teamwork, and respect in how you coach and communicate.
- Stay composed in challenging situations—especially when dealing with officials or opposition.
- (See 012 HEG Coaching Standards Policy)

Parents & Carers

- Encourage players positively; avoid sideline coaching or criticism.
- Respect officials, coaches, and club decisions at all times.
- Promote an inclusive and supportive matchday environment.
- Communicate concerns through the correct channels, respectfully.

3. Promoting Positive Behaviour

We actively promote good behaviour using a range of positive reinforcement methods:

- Verbal praise during sessions.
- Recognition like “Player of the Week” or team captain responsibilities.
- Awards and certificates at club events.
- Mentoring opportunities for older players to guide younger teams.

This approach is aligned with FA best practices and helps build confidence, teamwork, and club spirit.

4. Managing Misconduct & Discipline

While we prioritise encouragement, we also recognise the importance of dealing with misconduct clearly and fairly.

When a player receives a booking or dismissal, our disciplinary procedure is activated:

Hough End Griffins Management System

1. Notification

The club secretary informs the coach of any card-related fine and requests a summary of the incident.

2. Parent/Carer Contact

The club contacts parents/carers by email to request either:

- Payment of the fine, or
- As an alternative to a financial payment, the family will be offered appropriate voluntary work (to be completed by the player) to mitigate the cost.

3. Record-Keeping

All actions and sanctions are recorded in the club's **discipline register**, ensuring transparency and accountability.

5. Addressing Serious Misconduct

In cases of serious misconduct—such as **violence**, **abuse of referees**, or **discriminatory behaviour** under FA Rule E21, the club will:

- **Support** league/County FA proceedings
- **Cooperate** fully with investigations
- **Take appropriate action**, which may include in-club suspensions (or exclusions in extreme repeated cases) if warranted

Safeguarding and the well-being of all participants, particularly children, will remain our top priority.

6. Why This Matters

Poor discipline can seriously affect:

- Player development and learning.
- Enjoyment for all involved—especially younger children.
- The willingness of volunteers and referees to stay involved.
- The club's relationship with leagues and governing bodies.
- Club finances, through league-imposed fines.

That's why **everyone at HEG has a responsibility to maintain high standards of** behaviour. By doing so, we ensure football remains a positive, inclusive, and rewarding experience for all.
