RUSHALL VILLAGE FOOTBALL CLUB CIC
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Affiliated to Staffordshire Football Association

ADULT PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Implementation date	5th October 2023
First reviewed	13th April 2026
Agreed by	Mark Adams
Next review date	13th April 2027

Play Your Part – Respect the Game, Respect the Village

At Rushall Village FC, we are proud to represent our community - Rushall, Walsall, and the surrounding areas. As adult players, you are role models for our young players, families, and the wider village. We all share responsibility for promoting high standards of behaviour, fair play, and a welcoming, inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and safe.

By signing up to play for Rushall Village FC, you agree to observe this Code of Conduct at all times - on the pitch, at training, in club facilities, online, and in any interactions related to the club.

On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere strictly to the Laws of the Game and competition rules.
- Display and actively promote high standards of behaviour, setting a positive example for younger players and the community.
- Champion Fair Play and the spirit of the game - celebrating skill, effort, and sportsmanship over gamesmanship.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions and authority - never argue, question, or show dissent publicly or privately during or immediately after a match.
- Never engage in public criticism of match officials (including on social media, in interviews, or to the press).
- Avoid all forms of offensive, insulting, abusive, discriminatory, or inappropriate language or behaviour - including any based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, age, or appearance.
- Never bully, intimidate, harass, or threaten anyone involved in football - team-mates, opponents, officials, coaches, volunteers, spectators, or club staff.
- Speak to team-mates, opposition players, coaches/managers, officials, and spectators with courtesy and respect at all times.
- Remember that everyone makes mistakes - show understanding and support rather than criticism when errors occur.
- Accept results with dignity - win or lose, shake hands with the opposing team, officials, and your own team-mates at the end of every game (or offer appropriate post-match gestures if circumstances prevent handshakes).
- Arrive punctually, prepared, and in the right mindset for training and matches; give full effort and commitment during sessions.
- Support an inclusive environment - welcome all players regardless of background, ability, or experience, and help new or less confident team-mates feel part of the group.
- Represent the club positively online - avoid posting negative, inflammatory, or disrespectful content about the club, team-mates, opponents, officials, or the game.
- Refrain from consuming alcohol or recreational drugs immediately before, during, or immediately after club activities (training, matches, events) to ensure safety, performance, and a family-friendly atmosphere.
- Report any concerns about safeguarding, discrimination, or poor behaviour to a club official promptly and confidentially.

I understand that failure to follow this Code may result in disciplinary action by the club, County FA, or The FA. Possible consequences include (in escalating order, depending on severity and circumstances):

- A verbal apology to affected individuals (team-mates, opposition, referee, coach/manager, etc.).
- A formal verbal warning from the coach/manager.
- A written warning from the club committee.
- Mandatory attendance at an FA Respect education course or equivalent workshop.
- Temporary drop from the starting line-up, substitution during a game, or reduced playing time.
- Suspension from training sessions or matches (for a set period).
- Non-selection for upcoming games or teams.
- A formal club suspension (e.g., weeks or months).
- Financial fine (where permitted by club/league rules).
- Permanent exclusion from the club (in serious or repeated cases).

In addition:

- The FA or County FA may impose fines and/or suspensions on the club itself as a result of player misconduct.
- The FA is committed to ensuring referees and assistant referees can officiate free from threats of violence, intimidation, or abuse.
- Any physical assault or serious threat against a match official will result in a lengthy (often multi-year) or permanent ban from football, and may lead to criminal prosecution.