



Pitch side behaviour

Behaviour Expectations for Volunteers – Key Points from the Welfare Team

Please review the following reminders and discuss them with all volunteers supporting teams at Sparrows. If you need any assistance with these matters, do not hesitate to contact a member of the Welfare Team directly.

- **Access to the Pitch:** It is never acceptable to enter the pitch without the knowledge or consent of the referee. They are responsible for keeping the field of play safe for everyone.
- **Addressing Individual Behaviour:** Any concerns regarding the behaviour of a single child should be discussed with their coach or a match official. Volunteers are not authorised to single out any individual child for comment or action.
- **Role Modelling:** All volunteers represent the club at both training sessions and matches. By taking on a volunteer role, you become a role model for the children on the pitch and should therefore demonstrate the behaviour you wish to see from them. Please use the FA Respect resources and the Grassroots Code of Conduct for Adults in Youth Football as your guidelines.
- **Observing Behaviour:** As a volunteer, you are regarded as a trusted adult from a safeguarding perspective. It is important to remember that any behaviour you observe in children or young people—whether in your own team or on the opposition—is merely a snapshot and does not tell the full story.
- **Managing Incidents Sensitively:** We understand that many volunteers are involved because their own children play in the team, which can make addressing incidents more emotionally challenging. Therefore, whenever possible, incidents (whether related to behaviour at training/matches or first aid situations) should be handled by a volunteer who is not directly related to the child or young person involved. This approach helps protect both the children and the volunteers and represents best practice across the club.



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