

MULLINGAR ATHLETIC A.F.C.

CLUB RULES, CODE OF CONDUCT & USE OF CLUB FACILITIES

GENERAL: (Policy Statement for Club)

Mullingar Athletic AFC is committed to providing the highest level of facilities possible and to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual club member should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare, of others and they should ensure that their conduct at all times reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in this code of conduct.

The following code of conduct and disciplinary procedures, have been implemented to facilitate achievement and maintenance of these high standards.

Club Membership:

The club membership fee is defined for each season at the Clubs Annual General Meeting. Payment of this fee is mandatory to all persons wishing to become members. The membership fee must be paid before a person is allowed to train with, or play in a competitive match for the club.

Section 1: Training Nights:

- 1.1 All players must attend scheduled training sessions in order to be selected On match days.
- 1.2 Players must be toggged out and ready for training at the specified time.
- 1.3 If a player is going to be late or cannot attend for good reason, his/her coach Manager must be contacted.
- 1.4 All training equipment and footballs must collected after training and returned equipment store by players.
- 1.5 Players must show respect for club facilities, management persons, and team coach and visitors on training nights.
- 1.6 Football boots must be removed before re-entering dressing rooms after training session. Boots **shall not be cleaned in wash hand basin** and dressing room shall be left in a tidy condition after session.
- 1.7 After training every team must sweep out the dressing rooms and leave them clean and tidy for the next team. This chore should be undertaken by team members and should be rotated by managers.
- 1.8 Persons/Teams found to be in breach of any of the above will be reported to the club executive committee and will be disciplined in accordance with Clubs disciplinary procedure.

Section 2: Match Days:

- 2.1 Team Managers will assign a meeting time and place for all games.
- 2.2 All players must turn up at or before the appointed meeting time.
- 2.3 If a player can-not attend a forthcoming game he/she must notify the team manager at last training session before game or at least three days prior to the scheduled match.
- 2.4 Match fee must be paid to the manager or designated person on day of game.
- 2.5 All players and managers who represent this club must respect match referees and other officials. The use of foul and or abusive language towards match officials or visiting teams will be deemed a serious offence.
- 2.6 Players must show respect at all times for their management. They should not interfere with, bully or take advantage of others. Fighting, over-aggressive or dangerous behaviour will not be tolerated at any level within the club.
- 2.7 At away games the host clubs facilities and regulations must be fully respected at all times.
- 2.8 Teams who travel to away games by means of bus transport or family cars must show respect to the driver and the property of the bus or car.
- 2.9 Football kit & equipment provided by the club for matches must be returned after each game.
- 2.10 Persons found to be in breach of any of the above will be reported to the club executive committee and will be disciplined in accordance with Clubs disciplinary procedure.
- 2.11 When playing at home in Gainstown **every team must sweep out the dressing rooms and leave them clean and tidy for the next team.** This chore should be undertaken by team members and should be rotated by managers.

Section 3: Use of New All – Weather Surface

The new full size all-weather facility has been installed in conjunction with the 'Football Association of Ireland' as part of our club's designation of "Regional Development Centre". The facility will be used by the FAI Emerging Talent Programme on Monday night of each week and as otherwise agreed by the FAI. The Surface has been designed and installed to achieve the following minimum standard "**International Artificial Turf Standard (IATS) – FIFA Recommended 1 Star * rated synthetic (Monofilament) Surface**".

Maintenance of this standard is important in order that our club retain our 'Regional Development Centre Status'. This standard is also a requirement for the playing of official games. Hours of usage must be monitored and maintenance of surface will have to be planned and undertaken to assist in retention of above standard.

The facility will be used by the club as back up to our existing infrastructure as follows.

- (a) Coaching Education Programmes
- (b) Planned Team Coaching Sessions for young player 'technical development'
- (c) Back up for playing of selected games during bad weather.
- (d) Back up for club teams coaching during bad weather.
- (e) Selective commercial hire to meet loan repayments and maintenance costs.

3.1 The use of this important element of club infrastructure will be controlled by the club executive.

3.2 Player technical development is of the essence in the use of this club facility. Club Schoolboy, Schoolgirl teams and Adult teams will use this facility only under the direction of qualified club coaches who have achieved as a minimum FAI Kick Start 2 coaching qualification. (a Minimum of six months derogation period will be allowed from date of opening to allow existing managers to achieve this qualification. This period will end in on 31st August 2010)

3.3 Due to restriction on weekly hours of usage it would be impossible to allow all club teams to use this facility in any one week. In general Club Teams will continue to train and coach using the existing club facilities. However when coaching work of technical nature is required, a club team will be allowed use this facility for planned coaching sessions.

3.4 The following rules will apply to all users and must be adhered to at all times. Persons or groups who are in breach of these rules will be automatically prohibited from using this facility and will be reported to the club executive committee and will be disciplined in accordance with club disciplinary procedure.

- 3.5 Game time will be restricted to end of coaching sessions or when used as integral part of planned technical development.
- 3.4.1 Food products, chewing gum and soft drinks will not be permitted within the boundary fence of this all weather facility.
- 3.6 Smoking is strictly prohibited within the boundary fence and for a distance of 10 metres outside the boundary fence.
- 3.7 Approved footwear shall be cleaned at the detox areas outside the entrance gate before entering the all weather surface
- 3.8 Striking football against the boundary fencing is strictly prohibited.
- 3.9 Playing in goal areas other than in game time or in planned tactical coaching sessions is strictly prohibited.
- 3.10 All white lines shall be coned for coaching sessions and sessions will be planned so as to offer a change in direction during session.
- 3.11 All equipment and goals must be removed to storage after each session.
- 3.12 Littering will not be tolerated and water bottles etc shall be placed in bin.
- 3.13 Fitness training other than with ball will be undertaken on sand training area.
- 3.14 Access from clubhouse to all-weather facility will be by tarmac footpath only.
- 3.15 Crossing grass pitches is strictly prohibited.
- 3.16 Parents who come to view sessions on the new all weather will only be allowed to use the macadam footpaths and should not access the synthetic grass area.
- 3.17 Only the following Footwear will be permitted on this all weather surface

3.18 Footwear Permitted:

- Moulded Studs & Moulded Blades ONLY.
- Footwear **NOT** Permitted:
- **No** Steel Studs
- **No** Steel Blades
- **No** Astro Turf Runners
- **No** Flat sole Runners /Trainers.
- **Please note:** Where it states no Astro Turf Runners. We are not permitted to allow anyone onto pitch with Astro Runners as it is NOT an Astro Turf Pitch
- The club executive retains the right to amend these footwear requirements at any time.

Section 4: Disciplinary Procedure & Sanctions:

- 4.1 The Club undertake to elect a disciplinary committee at the Annual General Meeting each year or at the First Committee Meeting of the new season.
- 4.2 Sanctions will be fair and consistent and in the case of persistent offence, they will be progressively applied as follows.
- 4.3 For minor offences a verbal warning will be issued if a rule is broken.
- 4.4 When a rule is broken for a second time a sanction will be applied (for example use of time out in training etc)
- 4.5 If a rule is broken three or more times or if the offence is deemed to be of a more serious nature including violation of Club or Team rules or other misbehaviours the person/child will be spoken to and if necessary, the parents or guardians will become involved.
- 4.6 When the offence is of a more serious nature and in the case of persistent offences, sanction will be issued by the disciplinary committee. However the person/child will be afforded the opportunity to state their case to the disciplinary committee before any sanction is issued.

See below additional guidelines to be adopted in application of sanctions to children within club. These guidelines to be read in conjunction with Mullingar Athletic AFC “Club Code of Practice” **2.4 Club Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure (Covers all matters other than suspected child abuse which has to be referred to the Statutory Authorities See “Club Code of Practice” section 10.6)**

Note: Guidelines should be used in conjunction with club disciplinary procedure above.

- A warning should be given if a rule is broken
- A sanction (use of time out for example) should be applied if a rule is broken for a second time
- If a rule is broken three or more times, the child should be spoken to and parents/guardians involved if necessary

- Sanctions should only be used in a corrective way that is intended to help children improve both now and in the future. They should never be used in retaliation or to make coach/manager/volunteer feel better or more powerful
- When violations of the team rules or other misbehaviours occur, sanctions should always be applied in an impartial and fair manner
- Sanctions should never be used as threats. If a rule is broken, the appropriate sanction/s should be implemented consistently, fairly and firmly
- Sanctions should not be applied if the coach/manager/volunteer is not comfortable with them. If an appropriate action cannot be devised immediately, the child should be told that the matter will be dealt with later, at a specified time and as soon as is possible
- Once a sanction/s has been imposed, it is important to make the child feel s/he is a valued member of the team again
- A child should be helped, to understand if necessary why sanction/s are imposed
- A child should not be sanctioned for making errors whilst playing soccer for the club
- Physical activity (e.g. running laps or doing push ups) should not be used as a sanction as to do so may cause a child to resent physical activity which is something that s/he should learn to enjoy throughout his/her life. Remember Soccer has to be Fun if participants are to continue playing
- Sanctions should be used sparingly. Constant criticism and sanctioning can cause participants to turn away from Soccer

Adapted from the Irish Sports Councils Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children's Sport (2005)

