

# VERWOOD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

## Code of Conduct: Youth Players

*What we expect from every player at Verwood Town FC*

<b>Version</b>	Version 3.0 – April 2026
<b>Date of issue</b>	April 2026
<b>Review due</b>	Annually, or following any significant incident or change in FA guidance
<b>Policy owner</b>	Club Welfare Officer / Club Secretary (as applicable)

### 1. PURPOSE

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour we expect from all youth players at Verwood Town Football Club. It applies from the first training session and covers matches, training, tournaments and any activity where you are representing the club. It has been written to help every player understand what is expected, what they can expect from the club in return, and what happens if things go wrong.

Parents and carers: please read this document with your child and sign the acceptance section at the end. By joining VTFC, your child is agreeing to this Code of Conduct.

### 2. WHEN THIS CODE APPLIES

This Code applies to all players aged under 18 registered with Verwood Town FC, at:

- All training sessions
- All matches — league, cup, friendly and tournament
- Club events and social activities
- Online — including social media, group chats and messaging apps
- Any situation where you are representing or identifiable as a Verwood Town FC player

### 3. AS A PLAYER AT VERWOOD TOWN FC, I WILL:

- Always play to the best of my ability and for the benefit of my team
- Play fairly — no cheating, diving, complaining or time-wasting
- Respect my team-mates, the opposition, match officials and my coaches
- Play by the rules of the game, as directed by the referee
- Be gracious in victory and defeat — win or lose with dignity
- Listen and respond to what my coach tells me
- Not use foul or abusive language at any time while representing the club
- Understand that my coach has to make decisions for the team, not just for me
- Behave safely and respectfully online — not post negative content about the club, other players, officials or other clubs, and not engage in cyberbullying
- **Speak up if something feels wrong:** talk to a parent, carer, coach or the Club Welfare Officer if I am unhappy, uncomfortable or worried about anything at the club

### 4. WHAT THE CLUB EXPECTS OF EVERYONE

Verwood Town FC is committed to providing a safe, fun and inclusive environment for all players. In return we ask every player to help us maintain that environment by upholding this Code at all times. Coaches and managers are expected to follow their own Code of Conduct and to treat every player with respect.

## 5. IF I DO NOT FOLLOW THIS CODE

If a player does not follow this Code, the club may take one or more of the following actions. Any action affecting a player under 18 will always be discussed with a parent or carer first.

- Be asked to apologise to team-mates, the other team, the referee or my manager
- Receive a formal warning from the committee
- Be substituted or de-selected
- Not be invited to training sessions
- Be suspended from the club
- Be required to leave the club

Serious conduct matters may also be referred to Dorset County FA. All actions are taken in accordance with the club's Disciplinary & Complaints Policy.

## 6. GETTING HELP

If you are unhappy about anything at the club — including how you are being treated — you have the right to speak up. You can talk to:

- Your manager or coach
- Any committee member
- The Club Welfare Officer (contact below)
- Your parent or carer

If your concern is about a coach or club official, speak to the Welfare Officer or a committee member directly. You will be taken seriously and treated fairly.

Key Contacts	
Club Welfare Officer	Clare Nixson – welfare@vtyfc.co.uk / 07758 246452
Club Secretary	youth_secretary@vtyfc.co.uk
Childline (under 18s)	0800 1111 — free and confidential, 24/7