

# VERWOOD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

## Code of Conduct: Adult Players

*Standards of behaviour expected of all adult players 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 and responsibility expected from all adult players at Verwood Town Football Club. VTFC is a community club with youth, adult and mixed-age activity. Every adult player has a responsibility not only for their own conduct but for contributing to a safe, positive environment for everyone at the club — including younger players and volunteers who share our facilities.

### 2. SCOPE — WHEN THIS CODE APPLIES

This Code applies to all players aged 18 or over registered with Verwood Town FC, during:

- All matches — league, cup, friendly and tournament
- All training sessions
- 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

*The Code may also apply to conduct outside formal club activities where such behaviour could reasonably be considered to bring the club, its volunteers or its players into disrepute.*

### 3. COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNING RULES

All adult players must comply with:

- The Laws of the Game
- The FA Handbook and FA Regulations
- Rules and regulations of the competitions the club participates in
- FA Safeguarding and Welfare Policies
- Rules issued by Dorset County Football Association
- Any applicable guidance issued by the club committee

**Important:** *These rules apply at all times, regardless of whether the activity is a formal fixture, a friendly or a training session. Ignorance of rules is not an acceptable justification for a breach.*

### 4. AUTHORITY OF THE CLUB

Adult players must follow any reasonable direction or guidance issued by the club committee or a designated club official. The club's interpretation of any rule, regulation or policy is authoritative for all club activity. Failure to follow club direction constitutes a breach of this Code.

## 5. AS AN ADULT PLAYER AT VERWOOD TOWN FC, I WILL:

- Adhere to the Laws of the Game and promote fair play
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour at all times
- Always respect the decisions of match officials and never engage in public criticism
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment of any person
- Speak to team-mates, the opposition and my coach or manager with respect
- Win or lose with dignity — shake hands with the opposing team and referee after every game
- Behave appropriately online when representing the club — see the club's Social Media Policy
- Support a positive environment for all members of the club, including younger players and volunteers

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES AROUND YOUNGER PLAYERS

Verwood Town FC runs youth, girls and adult teams. Adult players may share training facilities, pitches or social spaces with under-18 players. In those contexts, adult players are expected to:

- Set a positive example of behaviour and language at all times
- Not engage in 1-to-1 contact or communication with under-18 players outside a parent-included or multi-adult group setting
- Report any safeguarding concerns about a young person immediately to the Club Welfare Officer
- Never purchase or supply alcohol or other substances to players under 18

**Important:** *If you are ever uncertain about appropriate conduct around younger players, the Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact.*

## 7. RESPECT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Verwood Town FC is run entirely by volunteers who give their time for the benefit of all players. Adult players are expected to:

- Treat coaches, managers, committee members and all volunteers with respect
- Recognise the authority of the club committee in managing club operations
- Raise concerns constructively and through appropriate channels — not publicly or on social media
- Not place unreasonable demands on volunteers carrying out their duties

## 8. IF I DO NOT FOLLOW THIS CODE

Any breach of this Code may result in action by Verwood Town FC. This may include:

- A verbal or written warning
- Being dropped or substituted
- Suspension from training
- Not being selected for the team
- Being required to serve a suspension
- Being required to leave the club

**In addition:** The FA or County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club. Serious breaches will be handled in accordance with the club's Disciplinary & Complaints Policy and may be referred to Dorset FA.

## 9. ACCEPTANCE

By signing below, the player confirms they have read and understood this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it as a condition of their membership of Verwood Town FC. A signed copy must be returned to the Club Secretary.

Acceptance	
Full name	
Team	
Signature	
Date	

Key Contacts	
Club Welfare Officer	Clare Nixson – welfare@vtyfc.co.uk / 07758 246452
Club Secretary	youth_secretary@vtyfc.co.uk
Club Chairperson	youth_chairman@vtyfc.co.uk
Dorset FA Safeguarding	safeguarding@dorsetfa.com / 01202 688270