



*Devonshire Colts*  
*P.O. Box HM 1123*  
*Hamilton HM FX*

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# Code of Conduct

## Purpose

This Code of Conduct promotes **integrity, respect, safety, and excellence** in all activities of the Devonshire Colts Football Club ("the Club").

It applies to **all coaches, players, members, officials, volunteers, and supporters** and serves as a condition of participating in or providing services for the boys, girls, and wider community within the Club.

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## 1. Member Commitment

As a member of Devonshire Colts Football Club, I agree to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Code of Conduct.

### I will:

1. Treat everyone with **respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration**.
2. Uphold the values of **Unity, Sportsmanship, and Character** at all times.
3. Report suspected abuse to the **Coach, Senior Parent Representative, or Executive Member**, who will accompany me when speaking with the Police and/or Child and Family Services.
4. Understand that failure to report suspected abuse to local authorities is a legal offence under the **Children's Act 1988**.

### I will not:



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1. Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children or youth.
  2. Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol while participating in Club activities or as a spectator at games.
  3. Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs during any Club-related activity or while spectating at games.
  4. Pose any health risk to children or youth during Club activities.
  5. Strike, spank, shake, or slap any child or youth.
  6. Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade any child or youth.
  7. Use profanity in the presence of children or youth.
  8. Engage in one-on-one private text, email, or social media communication with a child without including their parent/guardian or another Club official.

### **Representation:**

I understand that when I attend games, events, or activities—especially while wearing Devonshire Colts gear—I represent the entire Club and must act in a way that reflects positively on the Club and its members.

### **2. Governing Body Compliance**

All members, players, and coaches must:

- a. **Follow and abide by all laws, rules, regulations, and guidelines** set forth by the **Bermuda Football Association (BFA)**.
- b. Accept that the Club is bound by BFA disciplinary, competition, and operational regulations.



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c. If an individual wishes to **appeal a decision from the BFA**, the Club's **Executive Committee** and/or **Disciplinary Committee** will review the matter and decide whether to submit the appeal on their behalf.

d. No member shall independently file an appeal in a manner that conflicts with Club policies without written consent from the Executive Committee.

### **3. Standards for Coaches**

Coaches must:

1. Lead by example with fairness, honesty, and respect.
2. Prioritize **player safety and welfare** over winning.
3. Provide equal opportunities for all players to develop and participate.
4. Avoid discrimination, bullying, or harassment.
5. Maintain appropriate **boundaries** with players, particularly minors.
6. Follow safeguarding protocols and report welfare concerns immediately to the **Safeguarding Officer**.
7. Avoid offensive language or gestures.
8. Abstain from alcohol or illegal substances before and during training or matches.

### **4. Standards for Players**

Players must:

1. Play within the **laws of the game** and in the spirit of fair play.



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2. Respect match officials, coaches, teammates, and opponents.
  3. Accept decisions without dissent.
  4. Avoid abusive, discriminatory, or violent behaviour.
  5. Arrive on time for training and matches and give full effort.
  6. Care for Club property and facilities.
  7. Notify coaches of injuries or health concerns.

## **5. Standards for Members & Supporters**

Members and supporters must:

1. Encourage fair play and respect for all participants.
2. Avoid behaviour that could bring the Club into disrepute.
3. Support Club fundraising and community activities.
4. Refrain from foul, abusive, or discriminatory language.
5. Respect match officials, even when disagreeing with decisions.

## **6. Social Media & Communications**

- a. Keep online communications **positive, respectful, and constructive**.
- b. Avoid posting abusive, discriminatory, defamatory, or damaging content about the Club.
- c. Do not post identifiable images of minors without parental/guardian consent.



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## 7. Disciplinary Actions

Breaches of this Code may be referred to the **Disciplinary Committee**. Possible outcomes include:

- Verbal or written warning
- Suspension from matches or activities
- Termination of membership or contract

The decision of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Executive Committee.

## 8. Acknowledgement

All members, players, coaches, and officials must **sign an annual declaration** confirming they have read, understood, and agreed to comply with this Code of Conduct.

Adopted 2025