



MIDDLESEX FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE **HARROW SOCCER COMBINATION**



September 2016

Dear Colleague,

The FA's RESPECT Programme – Season 2016 / 2017



As you are aware, the Combination has been awarded with The FA's "National Silver Reward" as acknowledgement for its work and commitment towards the Respect Programme.



As the new season approaches we have developed this letter to explain, in detail, how The FA RESPECT Programme will operate this season.

Codes of Conduct

All clubs are required to include the respective Codes as part of their annual membership process for your players, parents/guardians and managers/coaches. We would also ask all clubs to ensure that the Codes appear on your club website. The latest Codes of Conduct can be downloaded from <http://www.thefa.com/my-football/more/respect>

From a Combination perspective, the Codes are fully incorporated into each member Club's application / affiliation forms for this coming season, as well as on all the player registration forms. As a result, we shall not require any further process to be followed in this regard.

Designated Spectator Areas

ALL teams playing in the Combination MUST ensure that the pitch on which they play their home matches includes either:

- (i) an approved pitch barrier; or
- (ii) cones; or
- (iii) 'additional' pitch markings.

These areas effectively 'draw a line' over which parents and spectators should not cross. Research has shown this to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials.

If you are using the Respect barriers, endorsed by The FA, the preferred arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on one side of the pitch for spectators and parents/carers from both teams to stand behind. This allows the coaches (and players) of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players get instructions from just one side of the pitch.

The Spectators' Area should start two metres from the touchline on one side of the pitch. The area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement, in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

No spectators or coaches should stand behind the goal line at either end of the pitch.

The Football Foundation has teamed up with The FA to provide funding towards Respect Barriers and Respect Packs as part of **The FA's Respect campaign** in the 2016-17 season.

The FA has provided **The Football Foundation** with funding for the scheme which will cover Respect Barriers and Respect Packs, which include equipment such as captain's armbands, marshal's bibs and signage to help encourage players, visitors and spectators to follow and Respect your club.

To check your eligibility, and generate a voucher code, please visit www.footballfoundation.org.uk/respect

Captains

We would ask all clubs to ensure that the Captain is aware of his responsibilities and that he wears The FA RESPECT armband at all games.

Referees Managing the Game

The majority of the referees in Middlesex have been trained on the RESPECT Programme with the aim of the training to ensure Referees work with the coaches (and team captains) to manage the game.

Other Initiatives

- ✓ We require that, similar as to what happens at all Premier/Football League matches, all players shake hands with each other (and the match referee) both prior to and at the conclusion of all matches in the Combination. We would ask that team managers / coaches take responsibility to ensure that this takes place.
- ✓ Match result forms include details on the RESPECT programme. We would ask all club officials to ensure that the match result forms are fully completed and submitted to the Combination within two days of the match being played.
- ✓ The FA has also provided guidance for clubs that may wish to run a RESPECT evening (or other event) for parents. In addition, there are DVD's available for all clubs that explain some more background to the programme and provide a useful tool to facilitate discussion between managers, coaches, parents, club officials and players. If this is of interest then please contact Leigh O'Connor.

There is also a series of Educational resources available to clubs on the www.thefa.com. One of them being a free online Respect Parent Guide to highlight examples of poor behaviour and, more importantly, how it can be improved. To see the Guide for parents and carers please visit: www.thefa.com/respectguide.

Finally, the RESPECT programme is a long-term programme which aims to address poor behaviour in grassroots football. Revisions, updates and new elements to the programme will be continually rolled out over the coming seasons, as well as increased monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the programme is being delivered efficiently and effectively.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION
FOR THE FA RESPECT PROGRAMME

Yours sincerely

Leigh O'Connor
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(FA Charter Standard and Respect League)

