

Football 4 Life



“Football for Life Information Document”



SUPPORTING FOOTBALL IN OUR COMMUNITY

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1 - Football for Life

We'd like to introduce you to our F.F.L. (Football for life) strategy. Within this philosophy we aim to give all players in our programmes a positive rounded experience of the game of football. As we know not all players will become professional footballers, but we aim to encourage our players to learn in a controlled playing environment.

Players can develop socially and make new friends as well as learning key elements in the game of football.

As part of this Development process, we can offer **ALL** children.

- A structured technical coaching curriculum in which each player will benefit from; this comes in the form of both coaching football and teaching multi skills for ALL levels.
- A structured physical literacy programme to improve children's understanding of general fitness and what is important for them to keep fit in the future.
- An understanding of Social Inclusion and how to work within a team and interact with other players.

2 – Honour OUR game

How we intervene when parents/spectators fail to “Honor Our Game”

At H&W Welders Football Club we have a strong belief in promoting the Positive Coaching culture on the side-lines, we wish to develop a touchline where parents let the coaches, coach without distraction and where parents provide encouragement for their children but unfortunately on occasionally parents or spectators do step over the line.

We set out at the start of the season to speak with parents/spectators at our Induction evening to set a standard of behaviour and agree with the parents about their role on match days. This will help stop any confusion coming into the first game of the season. At this meeting we offer parents the opportunity to become match day champions to help you promote positive behaviour on the touchline and coaches in their role as a coach.

If parents/spectators still get upset about calls made by officials or act in any way that doesn't Honor the Game, we still attempt to help reinforce a **Positive Coaching culture** by interacting with them.

Step 1 NON-VERBAL APPROACH: When an adult misbehaves first, we hand him a PCC fair play card or PCC parent handout. Nothing need be said at this point. We simply hand a card or leaflet to the person. Many times, this is all that is needed.

Step 2 GENTLE APPROACH: Sometimes a non-verbal approach doesn't do the job. To address the misbehaving adult in a gentle way we say, “You seem pretty upset.” This will often get them talking to you rather than screaming from the touchline. You can then remind them that we don't shout from the sidelines even if we get frustrated with the team performance or disagree with a decision.

Step 3 CALM AND ASSERTIVE APPROACH: Sometimes a person will not respond to gentle interventions. In these cases, we attempt to be clear about how we feel about this person's bad behaviour and what is expected. Yet we will stay calm and maybe say.

- “Remember we want to set a good example for our kids and Honor the Game.”
- “That's not the way we do things here in this club/on this team!”
- “Yelling at the official is not honouring the Game.”
- “It's not okay to act like that here.”
- “That kind of behaviour has no place here.”

We will stand back from the person, so we don't threaten them by invading their personal space. We want to let them know their behaviour is not acceptable, but not escalate this into something even worse. We will not put our coaches at physical risk. If the person becomes abusive or continues to act inappropriately, we will not retaliate physically or verbally. We will simply withdraw and contact an official (either a committee member or coach in club) and tell him/her, what is happening so appropriate action can be taken.

Step 4: Official Warnings: If the misbehaving person does not control himself at this point, official warnings will come into effect. An official of H&W Welders Football Club (board member, administrator, etc.), will take steps to keep this situation from getting out of control. The officials will talk to the head coach of the team about the parent/spectator who is misbehaving.

The coach has responsibility to control the parents/spectators from his team. The coach WILL talk with the misbehaving adult to let him know that his actions are unacceptable and unless he stops the game will not continue and may even ask misbehaving adult to leave the pitch.



3 – Talent Promotion Policy

At our Football for All Centres, we encourage all young players and their parents to be prepared to follow these important guidelines.

- 1 **Education-** when coaching is available young players must Endeavour to attend to improve technical/tactical aspects of the game.
- 2 **Determination-** All youth players in a coaching programme must be absolutely determined to succeed in football. Their everyday objective must be to transform their individual weakness into strengths.
- 3 **Energy-** Players must cultivate their enthusiasm for training, matches and the sport.
- 4 **Discipline-** The training plan is built around important basic requirements that every player must learn:
 - i) Learn to deal with obstacles and disappointments
 - ii) Demand the best from yourself
 - iii) Always be accepting of fellow players (social component, friendships)
 - iv) Be respectful of coaches and Club managers
 - v) Be a good sport, both on and off the field (fairness)
- 5 **Relationships-** The coach, parent and player play an exceptionally important role in the development of a young player, in both positive and negative sense.

Many parents are overly concerned with protecting their children. They try to control things "behind the scenes". However, this interferes with the young player's ability to think and act independently.

Thus, there must be a kind of marriage of understanding between the coach and parents. Trust is of vital importance. The parent must support the football information being distributed by the coach to avoid confusion in the long run.

In turn, anything that the parent is unsure about, he or she must approach the coach for clarification. However, please make sure not to pester the coach on a weekly basis.

A good balance is to be strived for, just like a good relationship.
- 6 **Patience-** the half-hour / hour after each session / match is of vital importance. Leave the young player to gather his thoughts about any information he may have gathered in the hour / hour and a half.

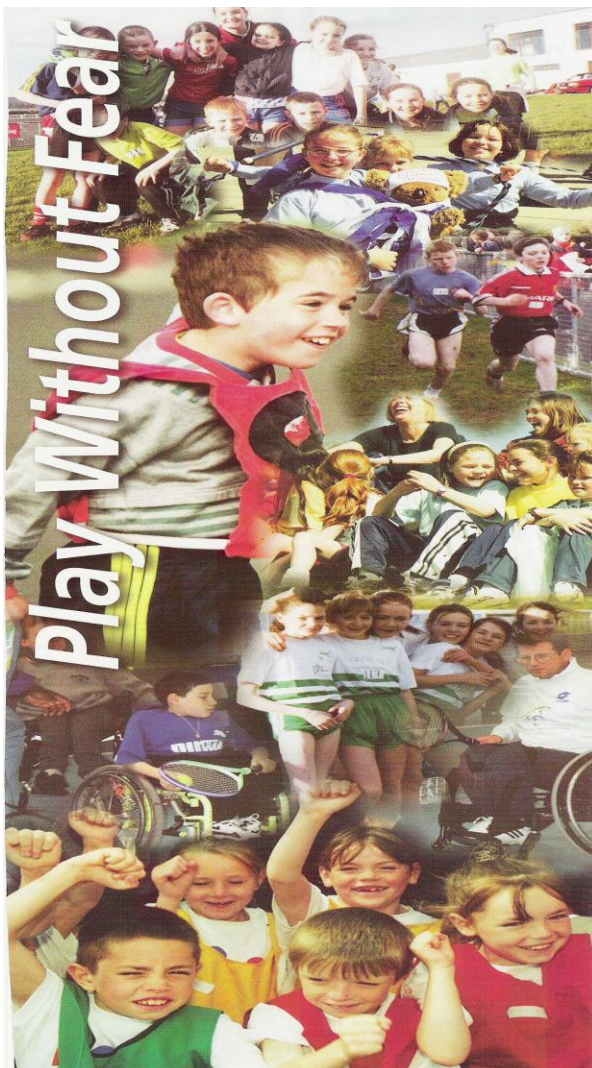
This is quality time and we suggest that you only encourage and support during this time

4 - Social Inclusion

Traditionally, all organisations in Northern Ireland have adopted a non-sectarian approach, which is a neutral position. This position acknowledges the existence of sectarianism sees it as wrong and destructive but does not take any active steps to reduce or challenge sectarianism. It is the traditional standpoint of all public bodies, including the Sports Council for NI.

H&W Welders Football Club will examine its policies, procedures and practice and in so doing attempt to eradicate sectarianism from the field of sport.

At H&W Welders Football Club we promote social equality through the values of sport and our "Soccer as Education" policy, which helps introduce young people to current problems in our society with a theme of;



- **Participation**
- **Celebration**
- **Reconciliation**

H&W Welders Football Club realises the "Soccer as Education" must be sustained in the longer term to achieve attitudinal change and continues to encourage everyone involved in sport to address issues of inequality through.

1. **Education**
2. **Demonstration**
3. **Communication**



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