



SOUTHDOWN SPORTS CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT

Creating a Safe, Welcoming and Respectful Environment for Everyone

1. Purpose

Southdown Sports Club is proud to be a friendly, inclusive and welcoming community sports club where people of all ages and abilities can enjoy sport, fitness and social activities in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Every person who uses the Club has the right to be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect. Equally, every person has a responsibility to contribute positively to that environment.

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of everyone using the Club and its facilities. **It should be read alongside the Club's Constitution & Rules, Safeguarding Policies and Membership Disciplinary Regulations.** The purpose of this Code is to explain the standards expected by the Club. Any alleged breach of this Code will be dealt with in accordance with the Club's Membership Disciplinary Regulations where appropriate.

2. Who This Code Applies To

This Code applies to everyone using or representing Southdown Sports Club, including:

- Members
- Junior Members
- Parents and Guardians
- Guests of Members
- Visitors
- Spectators
- Visiting teams
- School groups
- Coaches and Officials
- Volunteers
- Contractors
- Hirers of Club facilities
- Members of Staff

Everyone using the Club is expected to comply with this Code whilst on Club premises or whilst representing the Club elsewhere.

3. Our Values

Everything we do at Southdown Sports Club is guided by six simple values.

We expect everyone to demonstrate:

Respect: Treat everyone with courtesy, dignity and consideration.

Fair Play: Compete honestly, play fairly and respect the spirit of sport.

Inclusion: Welcome and support people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Responsibility: Accept responsibility for their own behaviour and actions.

Safety: Help maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Community: Support the Club, its volunteers, staff and fellow members in creating a positive atmosphere.

4. Behaviour Whilst Participating in Sport

Southdown Sports Club provides facilities for a number of sports, each governed by its own National Governing Body.

Whilst participating in any sporting activity, players are expected to:

- comply with the rules of their sport;
- observe the Code of Conduct and regulations issued by the sporting sections of Southdown Sports Club and the relevant National Governing Body;
- demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times;
- respect officials, coaches and volunteers;
- treat opponents with courtesy and respect;
- accept decisions without abusive or intimidating behaviour;
- encourage others in a positive manner;
- avoid cheating or behaviour that brings their sport into disrepute.

The Club recognises that sporting matters are generally governed by the relevant Sporting Committee and National Governing Body.

5. Behaviour Around the Club

Whether participating in sport or simply using the Club's facilities, everyone is expected to behave in a manner that contributes to a safe, welcoming and enjoyable environment. Everyone should:

- be courteous and considerate towards others;
- treat Club staff with respect;
- treat volunteers with appreciation and courtesy;
- respect the decisions of Club officials acting within their authority;
- avoid behaviour that may intimidate, upset or offend others;
- use appropriate language at all times;
- help maintain a family-friendly atmosphere throughout the Club;
- respect the privacy and enjoyment of others.

6. Respect and Inclusion

Southdown Sports Club welcomes people from all backgrounds.

The Club will not tolerate behaviour that amounts to:

- bullying;
- harassment;
- discrimination;
- victimisation;
- intimidation;
- threatening behaviour;
- abusive language;
- physical violence;
- unwanted physical contact;
- deliberate exclusion of others.

Everyone should feel welcome and able to enjoy the Club without fear of being subjected to unacceptable behaviour.

7. Staff and Volunteers

The Club relies upon its employees and volunteers to deliver excellent facilities and services. Everyone is expected to:

- treat staff and volunteers courteously;
- follow reasonable instructions;
- recognise that abusive behaviour towards staff or volunteers is unacceptable;
- raise concerns politely and constructively.

Disagreements should always be handled respectfully.

8. Children and Young People

The welfare of children and young people is paramount. Everyone using the Club must:

- help create a safe environment;
- support the Club's safeguarding policies;
- report safeguarding concerns promptly;
- avoid behaviour that could place a child or vulnerable adult at risk.

Parents and guardians remain responsible for the supervision and behaviour of children whilst attending the Club except where children are participating in organised activities under appropriate supervision.

9. Dress Standards

- Members and visitors should wear clothing appropriate to the activity being undertaken.
- Suitable sports clothing and footwear should be worn whilst participating in sport.
- Within the clubhouse, clothing should be clean, tidy and appropriate for a family-oriented community sports club. The Club Committees may issue additional guidance for specific events or facilities.

10. Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs

Everyone using the Club is expected to behave responsibly. The Club will not tolerate:

- drunken or disorderly behaviour;
- possession or use of illegal drugs;
- behaviour which places others at risk because of excessive alcohol consumption.

Members are reminded that the Southdown Sports Club is a NON Smoking and vaping club.

11. Respect for Club Property

The Club's facilities belong to the whole membership and wider community. Everyone is expected to:

- take reasonable care of Club buildings, grounds and equipment;
- leave facilities clean and tidy;
- report accidental damage promptly;
- avoid deliberate or reckless damage to Club property.

Any deliberate damage may result in disciplinary action and recovery of repair costs.

12. Social Media and Electronic Communications

The standards expected by this Code also apply to communications relating to the Club. Everyone should:

- communicate respectfully;
- avoid abusive or offensive comments;
- avoid publishing false or misleading information;
- avoid behaviour likely to damage the reputation of the Club or its members.

Consent for the use of photography when posting Club images, news, promotions and club associated activities is required. Photography materials used inappropriately might result in Disciplinary action or you not being able to take photographs around the Club again.

Positive and constructive comment is welcomed. Personal abuse is not. Any complaints should be made to the Club Manager in accordance with the Club Constitution.

13. Visitors and Guests

Members introducing guests are responsible for ensuring that those guests comply with this Code whilst visiting the Club. Visiting individuals, teams, coaches, school groups and hirers are expected to observe the same standards of behaviour as members.

14. Reporting Concerns

Anyone who experiences or witnesses behaviour inconsistent with this Code is encouraged to report the matter to:

- the Club Manager; and
- the appropriate Sporting Committee; or
- the Club or your sporting Welfare Officer where safeguarding concerns arise.

Concerns will be treated seriously, fairly and, wherever possible, confidentially.

15. If Things Go Wrong

Most concerns can be resolved informally through discussion and mutual respect. Where this is not possible, or where behaviour is sufficiently serious, the Club may take formal action. Depending upon the nature of the matter:

- sporting issues may be dealt with by the appropriate Sporting Committee and their disciplinary policy and, where appropriate, the relevant National Governing Body;
- behavioural matters affecting the wider Club may be dealt with under the Club's Membership Disciplinary Regulations.

The Club is committed to ensuring that all disciplinary matters are handled fairly, proportionately and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

Supporting Our Club

Southdown Sports Club is much more than a collection of sporting facilities. It is a community built upon mutual respect, friendship and shared enjoyment of sport. Every person who enters the Club has the opportunity to contribute positively to that community. By treating one another with courtesy, respect and consideration, we help ensure that Southdown Sports Club remains a place where everyone feels welcome.