

Who this is for. Any adult who comes along to a NextGen FC session or fixture but did not register the player — grandparents, step-parents, a parent who isn't the one who signed up, family friends. **If you stand on our touchline, this applies to you.**

What you are signing. Part One of our Adults' Code of Conduct — the standard every adult keeps. **Part Two covers fees, medical information and consents and applies only to the registering parent. You are not being asked to agree to any of it.**

You can also sign this online in two minutes at nextgenfc.co.uk/spectators-sign — this printed copy exists so you never have to.

WHY WE ASK YOU TO SIGN THIS

Children play football because they enjoy it. Everything below exists to protect that — to keep NextGen FC a safe, positive and ambitious place for every child, and to make sure the adults around the pitch help rather than hinder.

This is not about assuming the worst of anyone. It is about everyone knowing where the line is, so that nobody has to guess.

This code follows the FA's Grassroots Code and Respect programme: Enjoy the Game · Give Respect · Be Inclusive · Work Together · Play Safe.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

- Qualified coaches holding, as a minimum, an FA coaching qualification, an enhanced FA DBS check, FA Safeguarding Children training and first aid training (or working towards, and supervised until they hold them).
- Children treated with dignity and respect, never ridiculed or shouted at for mistakes.
- Coaches who will always make time for a proper conversation — away from the touchline, at the right moment.
- The same standard of behaviour from us that we are asking of you.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

At any NextGen FC session, fixture, camp or club event, I will:

- **Remember the children are playing for their enjoyment, not mine** — and that mistakes are part of learning.
- **Let the coaches coach.** I will not shout instructions from the sideline. Conflicting messages confuse and pressure young players.
- Applaud effort and good play from both teams, **and never criticise, ridicule or single out any child — whether or not they are related to me.**
- **Respect match officials and accept their decisions without complaint.** Many grassroots referees are teenagers themselves.
- Never use foul, abusive, threatening, discriminatory or sarcastic language.

- **Never confront a coach, official, opposition parent or player** during or after a session or game. Concerns come to Reece, calmly and privately.
- Stay off the pitch and behind the designated spectator area at all times.
- **Not attend under the influence of alcohol or drugs**, and not drink alcohol, smoke or vape at the touchline or anywhere children can see.
- **Apply the 24-hour rule.** If something frustrates me on a matchday, I will sleep on it and then raise it properly. The touchline and the group chat are never the place.
- Set a positive example, and remember my behaviour reflects on the child I came to watch and on NextGen FC.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING

- You are welcome to photograph or film **your own child**.
- **Please do not publish anywhere — including WhatsApp groups and social media — any image or video that clearly features another child, unless you have that child's parent's permission.**
- Some of our families have not consented to their child being photographed. You will not always know which. If in doubt, do not post it.
- Never post negative comments about any child, coach, referee, parent or club on social media. Concerns come to us directly.

IF THIS CODE IS BROKEN

Most things are settled with a quiet word, and that is always our preference. Where behaviour falls short, NextGen FC follows a staged process:

- **Stage 1 — Reminder.** An informal, private conversation with a coach or with Reece.
- **Stage 2 — Formal discussion.** A meeting with Reece and a written note of what needs to change.
- **Stage 3 — Suspension.** A temporary ban from attending sessions and fixtures.
- **Stage 4 — Removal or exclusion.** For a registering family, the place at NextGen FC is withdrawn. For any other adult, permission to attend is permanently withdrawn.

Serious behaviour — threats, abuse, discrimination, intoxication, or anything that puts a child at risk — skips the stages. You may be asked to leave immediately, and the matter may be reported to the West Riding FA and, where appropriate, the police. Safeguarding concerns are always handled under the Safeguarding Policy, not this process.

The child is never punished for an adult's behaviour.

If an adult is suspended or excluded, that decision applies to **the adult, not the player**. The child remains a welcome member of NextGen FC, and we will work with their registering parent or carer to arrange drop-off and collection so that their football is unaffected. No child should lose their place because of how a grown-up behaved.

WHO TO SPEAK TO

A child's welfare or safety · **Jess Garside** — Club Welfare Officer (Designated Safeguarding Lead) · 07512 044480

Anything else · **Reece Garside** — Founder & Chair · 07495 826664 · reece@nextgenfc.co.uk

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.

If your concern is about anyone at NextGen FC — including the Welfare Officer or the Chair — you do not have to raise it with us. Contact the **NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000** or the **West Riding FA safeguarding team** directly. You will never be criticised for going straight to them.

MY AGREEMENT

Please complete every box in BLOCK CAPITALS, then hand this page to Reece or any NextGen FC coach.

- ☐ I have read Part One of the NextGen FC Adults' Code of Conduct in full, and I agree to keep it at every session, fixture, camp and club event.
- ☐ I understand the staged process — reminder, formal discussion, suspension, exclusion — and that serious behaviour skips the stages and may be reported to the West Riding FA and, where appropriate, the police.
- ☐ I understand that if I am suspended or excluded, **that decision applies to me and not to the player**, whose place at NextGen FC is unaffected.
- ☐ I know that the Club Welfare Officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead is Jess Garside (07512 044480), and that if a child is in immediate danger I should call 999.
- ☐ I will only photograph or film my own child, and will not publish images of other children without their parent's permission.

YOUR FULL NAME	YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE PLAYER
PLAYER'S FULL NAME	PLAYER'S AGE GROUP (U7–U12)
YOUR CONTACT NUMBER	DATE
SIGNATURE	

CLUB USE ONLY		
RECEIVED BY	DATE RECEIVED	LOGGED

Rather do it on your phone? nextgenfc.co.uk/spectators-sign — two minutes, nothing to print, and it reaches us instantly.