

# GARTCAIRN

## FOOTBALL ACADEMY

### COACHES & OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

For all coaches and officials involved with Gartcairn teams, including players under 18 years of age

Gartcairn Women FC is committed to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all our players. All coaches and officials are required to read this code of conduct, tick each section to confirm their agreement, and sign at the end. This code sits alongside the SWF Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy (CWPP), the club's Filming as a Coaching Aid Policy, and the club's other policies, all of which are issued at the start of each season. A breach of this code may result in disciplinary action and could lead to removal from the academy.

#### 1. COACH / OFFICIAL DETAILS

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Team(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PVG Scheme Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. GENERAL CONDUCT

- Behave and abide by the rules of your academy and the laws of the game.
- Never argue with a referee or other official – without these people you can't play football.
- Control your temper – verbal abuse of officials or of other players is unacceptable.
- At children's age groups, never run trials or select players based on ability only.
- At children's age groups, never publicise scores – it is trophy-free football and against SYFA playing rules.
- Treat all coaches as you would like to be treated – fairly – and abide by the academy rules at all times.
- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game; encourage participation but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment and participation are more important than winning.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, referees and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise and respect all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time for free.
- Verbal or written abuse of any coach, volunteer or office bearer will result in disciplinary action and could lead to your removal from this academy.

☐ I agree to the general conduct standards set out above.

#### 3. COMMUNICATION WITH PLAYERS UNDER 18

Players aged 17 and under are children in the eyes of Scots law. The following rules apply to all communication with them, even where a link to a player pre-dates their time at the club or is connected to an official's business.

- All communication with players aged 17 and under must be via their parents/carers, or in club group channels that include parents/carers or a second club official.
- Never contact or correspond privately with an under-18 player on a 1:1 basis – by phone, text, WhatsApp, email or social media direct message.
- Do not become friends with, follow, tag or comment on the personal social media accounts of under-18 players.
- Never use players or family members to relay messages to the team or to individual players on your behalf.
- Keep all communication football-related, appropriate in tone, and within reasonable hours.

☐ I agree to the communication rules set out above.

#### 4. SOCIAL MEDIA & PUBLIC COMMENT

---

- Remember that any social media comment is read in the reader's state of mind, not the publisher's.
- Never post on social media about players, parents, complaints, investigations or internal club matters.
- Conduct yourself online to the same standard expected of you at the club.

☐ I agree to the social media standards set out above.

#### 5. FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY

---

- Follow the club's Filming as a Coaching Aid Policy and the Photography and Filming section of the CWPP at all times.
- Film or photograph players only where the required consents are in place, and never in changing rooms or other private areas.
- Store all footage and images on club-controlled accounts – never retain footage of players on personal devices, and never share it outside authorised coaching staff except through a Club Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO).

☐ I agree to the filming and photography rules set out above.

#### 6. CHILD WELLBEING & PROTECTION

---

- Comply with the SWF/SYFA Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy and all codes of conduct at all times.
- Maintain valid PVG scheme membership and the coaching qualifications required for your role, and notify the club before either expires or if your circumstances change.
- Give feedback constructively – never single out, ridicule or humiliate a player, whether in person, in front of others, or in a group chat.
- Support injured players to stay engaged with the team, in line with the club's Injured Player Engagement Process.
- Declare at the start of each season any squad in which your own child, or the child of a close relative, plays, and follow the club's Squad Structure and Conflict of Interest Procedure.
- Report any wellbeing or protection concern about a player to a CWPO without delay – it is not your role to investigate.

☐ I agree to the child wellbeing and protection requirements set out above.

#### 7. BREACHES OF THIS CODE

---

Alleged breaches of this code will be handled under the club's disciplinary procedures and may result in sanctions up to and including removal from the academy. Matters may also be referred to SWF/SYFA and/or the Scottish FA where their policies require it.

☐ I understand how breaches of this code will be handled.

#### DECLARATION

---

I confirm that I have read and understood this code of conduct, the SWF/SYFA Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy, and the club policies referred to above. I agree to abide by them in full for the season stated, and I understand that this code is re-issued and re-signed at the start of each season.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### FOR CLUB USE ONLY

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gartcairn — Creid Agus Coileanadh — Believe and Achieve*