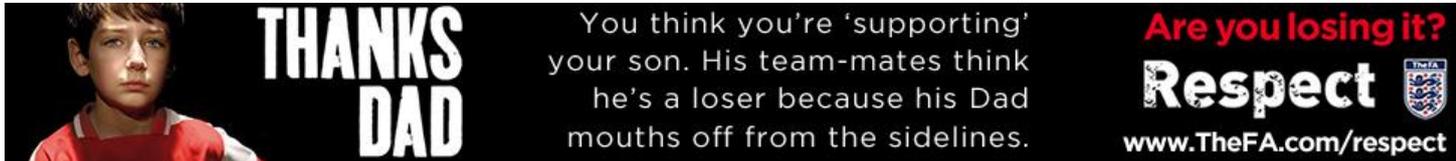




# Maccabi London Lions FC

## Guideline for Parents and Parents Code of Conduct



### Our coaching philosophy

The coaching staff and officials of *Maccabi London Lions* understand that children participate in football to have fun. If children don't have fun playing football, they'll soon stop playing.

**Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game – it is natural that winning is a basic concern for anyone taking part in sport as everyone wants to win. Our codes of conduct for parents, managers and coaches is not intended to conflict with this but calls for everyone to disassociate themselves from a 'win-at-all-costs' attitude.**

We never forget that the game of football is just that - a game. It's not about how many wins and losses are accumulated. And, it is surely not about how many trophies are collected. It's not about how many goals we score or concede. It's all about enjoying the game and, at the same time, learning and developing football and life skills.

Proper football development requires that children play age appropriate activities so they are able to experience, comprehend, and execute the game as it relates to where they are at their own stage of physical and mental development.

It's about learning the techniques of the game through a variety of fun games where players have as much contact with a ball as possible and learn at their own rates.

**The club is always pleased when its teams do well but winning is not the first priority.**

To achieve this, the club has developed the following code of conduct for Parents - *This code of practice is not designed to restrict anyone's freedom but to set the standards of behaviour that are expected to ensure that everyone enjoys football.*

### Parents Code of Conduct

1. Parents/Guardians must offer good positive encouragement to all children of both teams, to ensure that all children enjoy their football and are encouraged to develop.
2. Parents/Guardians must refrain from shouting or screaming, especially negative comments, as this may erode the player's confidence. Remember the children are young and easily discouraged and upset, football should be fun.
3. Parents/Guardians must avoid coaching during the game, this should be left to the Manager/Coach as this may cause confusion.
4. Parents/Guardians will remember that opposition teams, visiting team officials, supporters and match officials are guests of the club and they will be treated with courtesy.
5. Games will be played in a sporting manner and parents will not question the decisions of match officials.
6. Parents/Guardians will not enter into abusive or provocative behaviour towards opposition players, visiting team officials, supporters or match officials during or after matches. Swearing and physical threats or violence are unacceptable and will be reported to the relevant authorities.
7. Parents/Guardians will not enter the field of play at any time, unless invited to do so by the team manager or match official. The club recognises that parents of younger players will be worried if a player is injured but while the player remains on the pitch only the manager and match officials may attend the player.
8. Parents/Guardians will treat club premises and property and that of opposition clubs with respect.
9. **Parents/Guardians must remain outside the fencing of the 3G at all times, both on match day and at training, unless invited onto the pitch, by the team manager, match official, or coach in charge at the time.**



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10. Use of social media to criticise players, managers, supporters or match officials is prohibited, and may even be illegal. The club will not hesitate to take appropriate action in the event of such an incident.
11. **Parents/Guardians will accept that the Manager's decision in all matters relating to the team and team selection is final.**

The club management committee will sanction Parents/Guardians who ignore this code of conduct. Sanctions will be:

- On a first occasion the Parent/Guardian will be warned.
- On a second occasion the Parent/Guardian will be suspended for a period decided by the committee.
- On a third occasion the Parent/Guardian will be expelled from the club.

The management committee has the right to move directly to the second or third stage if the committee judges that an incident is so serious that this action is necessary.

Anyone sanctioned under this code has the right to appeal to Herts F.A. within fourteen days of the sanction.

This code of practice is not designed to restrict anyone's freedom but to set the standards of behaviour that are expected to ensure that everyone enjoys football.

## Playing Time

Up to and including Under 12's, the club has a philosophy of "Reasonable Playing Time", which is left to the manager's discretion. However, **"Reasonable Playing Time" applies over the season, not to one match.** There will be occasions when "Reasonable Playing Time" is inappropriate and managers should abide with the spirit of this rule rather than without exception, and parents have to accept this.

From Under 13s upwards, team selection will be based on ability and form (not just on a Sunday but also at training), commitment to training and having a good attitude. Unless there is a very good reason for a boy not to be at training (eg injury/illness/school activity), then as long as the circumstances allow, any boy not at training will not start the game the following Sunday. Managers/Coaches will endeavour to give all players in their squad as much playing time as possible however substitutions can be made according to tactics and strategy, with it not being mandatory for all substitutes to be played for key matches. However the non-playing of substitutes should be in the minority of cases and no player should be regularly left on the bench.

## Further Parental Guidelines:

- Be your child's biggest fan and support him unconditionally. Don't withdraw your love when he performs below his standard.
- On transporting your child home, please be supporting and always focus on the positive aspects of his game.
- Develop a responsibility in your son to pack his own kit, clean boots and bring along his water bottle full of water only.
- Respect the facilities at our opponents' grounds.
- Do not criticise your child's coach to your child or other parents, if you are not happy with the coach you should raise the issue with the head coach.
- Encourage your child to speak with the coach. If your child is having difficulties in training or games, or can't attend training etc. encourage him to speak directly to the coaches. This "responsibility taking" is a big part of becoming a mature person. By handling off the field tasks, your child is claiming ownership of all aspects of the game.
- Monitor your child's stress level at home, and keep an eye on him/her to make sure that they are handling stress effectively from the various activities of life.
- Help your son keep their priorities correct. They need to maintain a focus on schoolwork, relationships, and other things in life as well as football.
- **Help the young player to focus on the performance and not the result.**
- **Winning is not as important as the performance.**
- Support all the players in your child's squad. Do not criticise any player. REMEMBER – Children don't mean to make mistakes.

***Please remember – the game is for the children. It is not for the glory of the coach, manager or parents.***



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***LET THE KIDS WIN – LET THE KIDS LOSE – LET THE COACHES COACH – LET THE MANAGERS MANAGE***