

## **English Subbuteo Association – Code of Conduct**

### **Introduction**

This Code of Conduct seeks to encourage positive behaviours of participants in Subbuteo Table Football events and in related social media forums.

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, the term ‘participant’ includes all ESA Members and Guest Members.

Section 1 of this Code of Conduct applies to all participants in events or social media forums held under the auspices of the English Subbuteo Association (ESA).

Section 2 of this Code of Conduct applies to all ESA members or Guest Members who participate in any non-ESA Subbuteo Table Football event or social media forums (e.g.: WASPA, FISTF etc.)

Section 3 of this Code of Conduct focuses on relationships with children and vulnerable adults.

### **Section 1: ESA Events and Social Media Forums**

#### a) Planning

ESA events require effective planning, and the cooperation of participants is expected to assist with this. It is expected that on applying for their place in the event, individuals will:

- Respect the format of the event, designed by the organiser(s);
- Be willing to play any other participant that has been registered for the event;
- Make no disrespectful comments (face-to-face or on-line) about the format of the event, or others involved.
- Make every effort to take part ‘on the day’, and keep the organisers informed if they need to withdraw from the event, as soon as is practically possible.

Even if an individual is not intending to take part in the event, it is expected that they make no disrespectful comments (face-to-face or on-line) about the format of the event, or others involved.

#### b) Playing

At ESA events all participants must, during all matches and at all times while within the event venue, conduct themselves in a responsible and appropriate manner. Specifically, each participant must:

- be ready to play at the times appointed in the event schedule or as instructed by the event organiser;
- not refuse to play, or offer spurious reasons for failing to play at scheduled times;
- use equipment that meets tournament specifications;
- use their best efforts in each match;
- complete each match, unless there is a justifiable reason for not doing so;
- not use an audible obscenity or make an obscene gesture of any kind;
- not at any time verbally abuse any opponent, referee, event official or other person (including accusations of cheating);
- not present for a match under the influence of drink or drugs;

- not at any time physically abuse any opponent, referee, event official or other person;
- not act violently, dangerously or in anger, hit, kick or throw game equipment or other articles;
- conduct themselves in a sporting manner at all times with due regard to the hosts, the authority of officials, and the rights of opponents, spectators and other persons.

Further, where participants represent a club or international team in a tournament they must:

- make arrangements to travel to the tournament so as to be available for all playing and refereeing obligations and opening/closing ceremonies;
- wear kit as required under tournament rules or by team management;
- represent their club or country in a dignified manner;
- behave appropriately outside of the venue so as to avoid bringing the club, country or sport into disrepute.

Participants may be sanctioned by the referee for breaches of the above Code that occur during matches played at ESA events.

If a participant believes themselves to be unfairly treated by referee's decisions, they should seek resolution from the head referee or the event organiser. If a player is unhappy with the outcome they may refer the matter to the ESA for resolution under the Disciplinary and Complaint Policies.

Serious offences or repetition of less serious offences will be referred to the ESA for resolution under the Disciplinary and Complaint Policies.

Participants who believe themselves to be unfairly sanctioned for breaches of this Code of Conduct may refer the matter to the ESA for resolution under the Disciplinary and Complaint Policies.

### c) Refereeing

All participants are also required to referee matches. Although many participants do not enjoy this role, it is essential for the enjoyment of other players and the efficient and fair operation of events.

When participants are required to referee they must:

- be ready to referee at the times appointed in the event schedule or as instructed by the event organiser;
- not refuse to referee, or offer spurious reasons for failing to do so;
- be attentive to the match and use their best efforts to referee the match in accordance with the rules of the tournament
- seek guidance from the head referee/tournament organiser on uncertain/disputed matters;
- act impartially between each player;
- not engage in arguments with players, officials or spectators;
- not present for a match under the influence of drink or drugs;
- conduct themselves in a sporting and responsible manner at all times with due regard to the rules and the rights of players.

Any sanctions issued to players under this Code of Conduct must be made known to the head referee or event organiser. Where requested by the head referee or tournament organiser referees must provide a written statement of relevant matters in support of a referral to the ESA under the Disciplinary and Complaint Policies.

Referees who are unhappy with the resolution by the head referee or event organiser of disputes under this Code of Conduct may refer the matter to the ESA under the Disciplinary and Complaint Policies.

d) Spectating

Any participant watching another game will not seek to influence any of the players or the referee in any decisions they might make in playing or refereeing the game. Any comments or interaction will be designed to promote a positive atmosphere for all involved.

e) After the event

After the event, any Member or Guest Member (whether they participated or not), will make no disrespectful comments (face-to-face or on-line) about the event, or the participants.

## **Section 2: Non-ESA events and Social Media Forums**

For Non-ESA events (e.g.: Local club, WASPA or FISTF) and related social media forums, ESA Members and Guest Members are expected to adhere to the guidelines in Section 1, where they might be applicable. In essence, to respect the organisation and the running of these events and social media forums as intended by the various organisers.

## **Section 3: Relationships with children and vulnerable adults**

The ESA supports diversity and inclusion in our sport and actively encourages the participation of children and vulnerable adults. Children are those under the age of 18. Vulnerable adults are those aged eighteen years or over who are, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness, and are, or may be, unable to take care of, or unable to protect, themselves against abuse or neglect.

Relationships with children and vulnerable adults are governed by the ESA's Safeguarding Policy. Participants who coach, organise, play against or referee any child or vulnerable adult must:

- treat them with respect and engage appropriately and responsibly;
- be encouraging and supportive at all times;
- avoid being alone with a child or vulnerable adult unless unavoidable or where you have explicit permission of the parent or guardian;
- not transport a child to a different location (e.g. for a tournament) without the express written permission of the parent or guardian;
- not engage on social media with the child or vulnerable adult;
- not engage with the child or vulnerable adult in any way that may be construed as 'grooming';
- if a child opens up to you about a topic that may be a safeguarding concern, listen carefully and encourage the child to talk but never agree to 'keep it to yourself' – tell the child that you may have to tell others if it is important;

- report any concerns you have about the wellbeing of any child or vulnerable adult to the club organiser or event organiser (as appropriate) and also to the ESA Welfare Officer via: [englishsubbuteoassociation@gmail.com](mailto:englishsubbuteoassociation@gmail.com);
- report risk of significant harm immediately to the children’s social care team at the relevant local council (contact details can be found via [www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council](http://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council)); if you think the child or vulnerable adult requires immediate protection call 999.

Associated policies and procedures

1. ESA Disciplinary Procedure
2. ESA Values and Behaviours
3. ESA Complaint Procedure

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