

Star Soccer Academy – Parents' & Spectators' Code

Season 2026/27. Based on the FA Respect Code of Conduct for Spectators and Parents/Carers.

Children play football to enjoy it, to learn and to be part of a team. The adults around them shape that experience more than anything else. This code sets out what Star expects from every parent, carer and spectator at sessions and matches and in the club's online groups.

On the touchline

- I will encourage all the players, on both teams, and never shout at, criticise or ridicule a child for a mistake, including my own child and other people's children.
- I will let the coaches coach. I will not shout instructions, tactics or comments to players during the game.
- I will respect the referee and match officials and accept their decisions, even when I disagree.
- I will never use foul, abusive, threatening or discriminatory language or behaviour towards anyone: players, coaches, officials, opposition supporters or other parents.
- I will not confront another parent, spectator or coach during or after a game. If I have an issue with someone's behaviour, I will report it to the coach or the Club Welfare Officer rather than deal with it myself.
- I understand that my behaviour reflects on the club. I will not act in a way, in person or online, that brings Star Soccer Academy into disrepute or damages its reputation with players, families, opponents, officials or the wider community.

Online and in team groups

- Team WhatsApp and other group chats are for practical information: fixtures, times, venues, kit and results.
- I will not use group chats or social media to discuss or criticise individual children, families, coaches or officials, or post photos or videos of other people's children without permission. If there is a disagreement, I will take it to the club, not into the group.

Raising concerns

- If I have a concern about my child's welfare or how they are being treated, I will raise it calmly and in private with the coach or the Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible, not on the touchline or in a group chat.
- I will respond to any reasonable request from the club for my account of an incident I witnessed, so that matters can be dealt with fairly and quickly.
- Club Welfare Officer: Matt Finnigan – matt@starsocceracademy.co.uk. County FA safeguarding team: 0116 286 7828 (option 1) or safeguarding@leicestershirefa.com.

Supporting my child

- I will remember that it is my child's game, not mine, and I will support the coaches' decisions on selection, positions and playing time, talking to them privately if I have a question.

What happens if I break this code

Depending on how serious the behaviour is, or if it continues, the club may:

- issue a formal written warning
- ask me not to attend matches or training for a period
- report the matter to the Leicestershire & Rutland County FA
- review my child's place at the club as a last resort, where a parent's behaviour makes their child's continued involvement unworkable

Any action is decided fairly and consistently, in line with FA guidance, and applied to everyone in the same way.

Agreement

Parents and carers confirm in the Star app that they have read this code and agree to follow it whenever they attend Star Soccer Academy sessions or matches, or take part in club groups. If you cannot use the app, ask the club for a paper copy.

Approved by Matt Finnigan, Owner and Club Welfare Officer, September 2026.