



Linton Aztecs FC – Adults Vs Kids Participation Code

Linton Aztecs Football Club ('the club') acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in Aztecs club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

As part of this, the club is committed to following the FA's Best Practice Guidance note for: **Adults playing alongside children whilst 'coaching' or 'playing' football** whilst in the care of the club.

References:

- The FA Equality and Child Protection Dept 2012
- The FA Handbook, Season 2011 -2012, Rules and Regulations of The Association

The Standard Code of Rule for Youth Competitions, Qualification of players 8(B) ii (pg524) state: **'In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more'.**

N.B. for disability football the two year age band may be varied at the discretion of The Association

The FA rules prescribe two year age banding in the interests of child development in football. This provides parameters which allow children to develop alongside their peers who are of a similar physical development. Whilst it is acknowledged that there will be varying levels of development within any one age group this ruling prevents children being placed in potentially dangerous settings playing football with and against much larger children in matches.

The club is committed to supporting the The FA position against adults playing or actively participating within youth football settings (U18 and below) for similar reasons to those as detailed above. The disproportionate skill level and physical size presents the potential opportunity for injury to the children involved.

It is The FA's experience that adults playing games within youth football in either club training settings or so named '*friendly matches*' (often historically referred to as '*Lads v Dads*' games) can result in injury. **It should be noted that the injury of a player in such circumstances has in the past resulted in legal action being taken by the injured party against the offending player/adult or the club and may fall outside the limitations of the clubs insurance.**

Whilst coaches may deem themselves to be 'aware' and skilful enough to avoid contact, the risks of injury remain high and there are reported incidents where this has occurred. With the best of intentions; enthusiasm and effort on behalf of either party can and does result in physical contact.

The club is aligned with the FA coaching course mandate and make it very clear that all adult members connected with the club, including parents, coaches/managers or assistants are not to join in games or training set ups when working with the club teams at all age levels under 18. Indeed such activity would be deemed in conflict with the Respect Code of Conduct for Coaches and leaves the adult open to potential claims against them.

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