GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS, MANAGERS AND VOLUNTEERS

**MOUNT MERRION PLAYERS’ CODE**

* Respect your managers & coaches –  they give up a lot of time and energy to provide you with your game at the weekend and training during the week.
* Be on time (or early) for training and matches.
* If you are not available for a match, or training, give as much notice to your manager so that he/she is able to make plans without you. (Always try to plan trips so that you don’t miss games)
* Don’t be surprised if you spend some time on the ‘sidelines’ during the season –  every player at some stage in their career has done time on the bench. Use it to your advantage, watch the game and learn where the opportunities are.
* If there is a problem talk to your manager about it.
* Make sure you have all of your kit with you at games.
	+ Football boots, black shorts and socks, shin pads, Mount Merrion Youths top, water. Don’t create unnecessary problems for your manager on the morning of a match.
	+ Make sure you don’t leave anything behind after the match.
* Make sure you have all of your kit with you at training.
	+ Football boots, black shorts and socks, shin pads, Mount Merrion Youth top, water.
	+ Make sure you don’t leave anything behind after training.
* Make sure you work hard in training. This is where you lay the groundwork for matches.
* If you are disruptive in training in a way that affects the session, your manager may ask you to sit out.
	+ If the behaviour continues, you will be asked not to attend the following training session. This will mean missing the next match. If there is still no improvement, your manager may ask the club committee and child welfare officer to be involved.
* Be considerate to your team mates at all times, on and off the pitch.
* Help your manager out with jerseys, footballs, cones, flags etc.
* Accept both good and bad decisions from the ref. Sometimes you’ll get decisions, sometimes you won’t. Nothing you can do about them. Concentrate on improving your own game. That’s where you can make a difference.
* If someone on your team makes a mistake, encourage them.
* If you make a mistake during a match forget about it, learn from it and move on. Don’t let one mistake ruin the whole game for you.
* Arguing with the referee, your team or your manager only helps the other team, don’t do it as it will disrupt both your game and your team’s game.
* Don’t respond to ‘stick’ given to you from the other team or their supporters. Use your energy and concentration to get a good result for your team.
* If an incident that you consider serious – for example verbal abuse based on race – occurs during a game, inform your manager immediately. This makes incidents far easier to deal with than if they are disclosed after a game has ended.
* Not matter what happened during the game always shake hands with your opponents at the end of the game.
* Yellow (or indeed red) cards and silly free kicks in any area don’t help us win games – avoid them!

**MOUNT MERRION YOUTHS MANAGERS’ GUIDE**

* Confirm the match time and venue with both the referee and opposition a few days before the match, don’t take it for granted that the match is on. This can be done via the club’s fixtures secretary.
* Check that there is no clash of colours with the opposition.
* Make sure you know the way to get to those away games and leave plenty of time to arrive and warm up before the match.
* Make sure you have a suitably equipped first aid kit for all matches and training. You can never have enough plasters.
* Make sure footballs are sufficiently pumped and take care of match balls.
* Make sure the referee is paid. (Home leagues games: home team pays. Cup games, payment is split between teams. SFAI Cup games, home team pays)
* Ensure all pitch equipment is ready for your match.
* For away games ensure there is enough cars to bring out all the players.
* Have a set meeting point for away games (changing causes confusion).
* Bring all relevant contact numbers to away games.
* Make sure each player is wearing the correct kit (football boots, black socks, black shorts, shin pads and club jersey) before being inspected by the referee.
* Ensure all players are getting adequate game time, from 5-a-side, 7-a-side, 9-a-side through to 11-a-side.
* Be prepared in training – have a set plan of what you want to do with the team.
* Always 2 Garda vetted coaches at every team session.
* You should be the last to leave a training session – never leave a child waiting for collection.
* Try to be upbeat and have fun with the players don’t be working them too hard, always try and create a fun atmosphere
* Always leave time for a game near the end of a training session and try to encourage the players to use what they learned in training during these games.
* You must get all players to sign an official league registration form before letting them play for the team otherwise they will be ineligible in competitive matches. (Does not apply to non-competitive games for small sided fixtures).
* Fixtures will appear on the club’s website by Tuesday morning (where they are available). Updates will be posted to the website during the week.
* Managers meeting are usually held on Tuesdays in the clubhouse in Deerpark.
* Either you or your assistant should attend to ensure communication within the club.
* If you have any equipment issues contact info@mmyfc.ie.
* If you have finance queries contact info@mmyfc.ie.
* You should contact the committee with any other issues you may have. The club have a dedicated Child Protection Officer who is a valuable sounding board for any issues.

Behave with respect and consideration to all, including opposition players, managers and parents, as well as your own team.

Remember this is school-child football. The wellbeing of all players is more important than the result.