



Ballymena United Youth Academy Membership Rules for Players and the Fair Play Policy

Ballymena United Youth Academy is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members. The Club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parent/carers associated with the Club must, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of everybody. Therefore all members are encouraged to be open at all times and share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the Club with **ANY** member of Ballymena United Youth Academy, **ANY** Team Manager, and the Designated Child Protection Officer. A full list of the above elected members will be placed on the club website.

The Club will offer a positive experience where children can learn new things in a safe and positive environment.

All members (players) must abide by the following rules:

1. All members must, as far as possible, be kept safe from harm while they are at or representing the Club. All members must keep within the defined boundaries of the playing/coaching area. If it is necessary to leave the area please inform the coach immediately.
2. No member associated with the Club must ask anyone to keep secrets of any kind.
3. Members are not allowed to drink alcohol, smoke or take drugs of any kind whilst training or representing Ballymena United Youth Academy. Members must not participate in any Club activity whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Members shall not promote or sell any alcohol or drugs to any person whilst training, representing Ballymena United Youth Academy or taking part in any activity with the Club.
4. Members will respect the coaches, officials and administrators within the Club and remember that they are giving their time and expertise free of charge.
5. Members will not use violence at any time or for any reason.
6. Members must try to be on time for sessions, matches or competitions so as not to disrupt the smooth running of the Club. Please also ensure you are collected on time at the end of the sessions, matches or competitions.
7. Members must pay membership fees on a weekly basis unless another arrangement has been made with the Club Treasurer.



8. Members will take care of all property belonging to the Club or any member, including all Club equipment and public facilities.
9. Members are responsible for caring for their own equipment, clothing and property and they must ensure that it does not endanger any other members of the Club or public. If your coach has a valuables bag – please use it and inform the coach accurately of what you have placed in the valuables bag, for example, a ring, a mobile phone or house keys. Do not bring unnecessary valuables to your training sessions or matches.
10. No jewellery or unsuitable clothing or footwear must be worn during practical sessions or matches. Members should wear shin-guards when taking part in any practical session or match. Members should also bring their own water bottle or liquid container.
11. The use of foul language and/or abusive language is unacceptable within the Club and will not be tolerated.
12. Members should be courteous to all its members, coaches, officials and members of the public at all times whilst representing the Club whether it is at training sessions, competitions or matches.
13. Members must adopt the Fair Play Policy of the Club which is set out below and act in accordance with the Policy at all times.

Fair Play Policy for all Members

1. Players play for enjoyment and to improve performance, not just to please their parent/carers or coach.
2. Where rules, apply, players must try to understand them and to adhere to them.
3. Players accept the decisions of the coaches and officials. No arguing, abusive language or comments – **ACCEPT THE DECISION.**
4. Players will control their tempers at all times. Do not retaliate to any provocation – real or assumed.
5. Players will be “good sports” – they will cheer all good play whether it is our players/teams or an opponent’s.
6. The aim of the game is to have fun, improve skills and to feel good.



7. Players will work equally hard for themselves and the team, be loyal and give their team mates a second chance.
8. **Players will treat all players, as they themselves would like to be treated.** They will not bully, swear, name call or take unfair advantage of any player – either in person at training sessions or matches, by text message or phone call at training sessions or matches or on the internet and social media sites at training sessions or matches.
9. Be friendly and particularly welcoming to new members
10. Players will cooperate with the coach, team-mates and opponents: - without them there is not a game.
11. **Players whilst taking part in competitive matches will only take instructions from their own coaches or a person nominated by their coach. Players will not take instructions from parent/carers or bystanders and should adhere to the instruction of the team coach. Failure to do this leads to confusion and to undermining the coaches position.**

You as a player are a member of Ballymena United Youth Academy and as so bear the responsibility of being the public image of the Club. When you wear the training gear or match strip with pride you are representing Ballymena United Youth Academy and the image presented is to be applauded. Please bear in mind that if you, the member, are involved in unsatisfactory behaviour whilst representing the Club whether before, at or after the training session or match situation this reflects on the Club as bad publicity. Unfortunately, one incident of bad publicity can undo many years of good publicity. Please help us, the Club, to maintain our good public image within the community and on the internet.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct for members will be addressed by the immediate coach and reported verbally and in writing to the designated Child Welfare Officer. If a member continues to breach the Code of Conduct after an initial verbal warning from their immediate coach, the following disciplinary action will take place:

First Official Warning - Reported to parent/carer – 2-week suspension verbally & in writing.

Second Official (final) Warning - Reported to parent/carer - Minimum 1 month suspension, verbally and in writing. In extreme case, expulsion will be considered.



Ballymena United Youth Academy will form a Disciplinary Committee as well as an Appeals Committee. If parent/carers wish to appeal any of the Committee's decisions they must do so in writing, by special delivery letter, within 7 days of receiving official notification. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties concerned and there should be no further appeals from it.

Reviewed May 2021