



## **BUNRATTY UNITED AFC**

### **Code of Conduct**

*(Players, Parents and Guardians, Coaches and Volunteers)*

#### **1. Purpose**

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of all players, parents and guardians, coaches, volunteers, officials, and members of Bunratty United AFC.

It supports a safe, inclusive, respectful, and positive environment and forms part of the Club's obligations under the FAI Club Mark Programme and safeguarding requirements.

Compliance with this Code is a condition of participation in all club activities.

#### **2. General Standards of Behaviour**

*(Applies to everyone involved with the Club)*

All members of the Bunratty United AFC community must:

- Treat all individuals with dignity and respect
- Promote fair play, teamwork, and good sportsmanship
- Act in the best interests of children and young people at all times
- Comply with club policies, FAI rules, and applicable legislation
- Respect the authority of match officials and club officers
- Avoid behaviour that could bring the Club or the game into disrepute

The Club does not tolerate bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or abusive behaviour in any form.

#### **3. Code of Conduct for Players**

Players are expected to:

- Play fairly and within the rules of the game
- Respect teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, and volunteers
- Accept decisions of match officials without argument
- Show commitment, effort, and positive attitude at training and matches
- Behave responsibly when representing the Club, including online

- Follow all safeguarding rules and club instructions

Players must not:

- Bully, intimidate, or deliberately exclude others
- Use abusive, racist, sexist, or offensive language
- Engage in physical or verbal aggression
- Damage property belonging to the Club or others
- Bring alcohol, drugs, or prohibited substances to club activities

#### **4. Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians**

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Encourage children to enjoy football and do their best
- Support fair play, respect, and development over winning
- Show respect to referees, coaches, volunteers, and other players
- Communicate concerns through the appropriate club channels
- Ensure children attend on time and are collected promptly

Parents and guardians must not:

- Shout instructions or criticism from the sideline
- Undermine or publicly criticise players, coaches, or officials
- Engage in aggressive or confrontational behaviour
- Use social media to criticise children, club personnel, or decisions

Failure to comply may result in restrictions on attendance or further disciplinary action.

#### **5. Code of Conduct for Coaches and Volunteers**

All coaches and volunteers must:

- Act as positive role models at all times
- Prioritise the welfare, safety, and enjoyment of players
- Treat all players fairly, inclusively, and without favouritism
- Hold appropriate FAI qualifications and Garda Vetting where required
- Follow the Club's Child Safeguarding Statement and reporting procedures
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with players

Coaches and volunteers must not:

- Use physical punishment, intimidation, or verbal abuse
- Engage in inappropriate physical contact
- Communicate privately with children outside agreed club systems
- Ignore or fail to report safeguarding concerns

All safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately in line with club procedures and FAI guidance.

## 6. Social Media and Online Behaviour

All members must:

- Use social media responsibly when referencing the Club
- Never post abusive, defamatory, or inappropriate content
- Never share images or information relating to children without consent
- Follow club guidance on official communication platforms

Online behaviour that damages the reputation of Bunratty United AFC will be treated as a disciplinary matter.

## 7. Breaches and Disciplinary Action

Breaches of this Code may result in:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Suspension from matches or training
- Removal from club activities
- Referral to the Club Committee
- Referral to the FAI or statutory authorities where appropriate

Serious or repeated breaches will be dealt with formally.

## 8. Governance and Oversight

This Code of Conduct is approved and overseen by the Bunratty United AFC Club Committee, in line with the Club Constitution.

The Club Committee consists of the following officers:

- **Chairperson:** Brendan Drinan
- **Honorary Secretary:** Aileen Keating
- **Honorary Treasurer:** Sarah Bennett

The Committee is responsible for enforcing this Code and ensuring compliance with FAI requirements.

## 9. Acceptance

All players, parents and guardians, coaches, volunteers, and officials must agree to comply with this Code of Conduct as a condition of involvement with Bunratty United AFC.

**Approved by:** Bunratty United AFC Club Committee

**Date Approved:** 18 December 2025

**Review Date:** December 2026

*Brendan Drinan*

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Brendan Drinan  
Chairperson

18/12/2025

Dated

*Aileen Keating*

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Aileen Keating  
Hon. Secretary

18/12/2025

Dated

*Sarah Bennett*

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Sarah Bennett  
Hon. Treasurer

18/12/2025

Dated