



#LETTHEMPLAY

CREATED BY THE CHARTER STANDARD & RESPECT COMMITTEE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL



RESPECT



What is THEIR GAME?

Their Game will involve coaches and spectators having minimal verbal contact throughout games, to raise awareness of the need to create a positive and pressure-free environment in which children can enjoy football and learn to love and develop in the game. We hope you will support the programme by encouraging clubs to take part and spread awareness of this fantastic initiative. Every year we look to alter the initiative from previous years based on the feedback received. Please make sure you read the Dos & Don'ts for all parties.

In this resource you can find FAQs on the initiative, ideas for how you can get involved and supporting resources for parents, coaches and referees. If your league wishes to support *Their Game*, please email Charlotte.Brown@HampshireFA.com

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THEIR GAME

1

Ensure you share the codes of conduct with all your members, clubs, coaches, referees and contacts.

2

Date to be set by the league and shared with clubs.

3

Contact your local press, pledging your support.

4

Share your support on social media using the hash tag
#LETTHEMPLAY

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR LEAGUES

- Ensure all clubs are aware of the *Their Game* initiative and when it is taking place
- Ensure all referees are aware of *Their Game* and when it is taking place
- Allow teams from U7-18 to play quarters, allowing coaches multiple opportunities to coach their players without interfering with game play
- Have committee members and volunteers attend matches to ensure the initiative is being delivered effectively

FOR CLUBS

- Host a meeting to ensure all managers are aware of their duties
- Ensure all parents/spectators are aware of *Their Game* Dos and Don'ts
- Work with your club Respect steward to ensure *Their Game* is administered appropriately
- Ensure all Respect stewards are aware of the reporting process (see p.11)
- Ensure all members are aware of the reporting process (see p.11)

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

DO

- PLACE THE WELL-BEING, SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT OF EACH PLAYER ABOVE EVERYTHING
- NEVER TOLERATE ANY FORM OF BULLYING
- ALWAYS SHOW RESPECT TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE GAME
- ENCOURAGE FAIR PLAY AND HIGH STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR
- APPLAUD GOOD PLAY AND CELEBRATE WHEN A GOAL IS SCORED
- ALLOW YOUR PLAYERS TO LEARN FROM MISTAKES AND MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS
- SET MATCH AND PLAYER OBJECTIVES BEFORE KICK OFF, AT HALF TIME OR DURING THE INTERVAL
- LISTEN TO YOUR PLAYERS' FEEDBACK DURING THE INTERVALS
- SET OUT THE RULES AND EXPECTATIONS WITH YOUR TEAM'S PARENTS
- UTILISE THE CAPTAIN OR SUBSTITUTES TO COMMUNICATE TO PLAYERS WHERE THERE ARE SUITABLE BREAKS IN PLAY
- RESPECT THE REFEREE'S DECISION
- NEVER ENTER THE FIELD OF PLAY WITHOUT THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION
- WORK WITH YOUR RESPECT STEWARD TO ENSURE *THEIR GAME* IS ADMINISTERED APPROPRIATELY
- REFER TO YOUR CLUB RESPECT STEWARD IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE

DON'T

- COACH YOUR PLAYERS DURING PLAY*
- COMMENT OR SPEAK TO THE REFEREE DURING THE MATCH
- GLOAT OR ANTAGONISE THE OPPOSITION
- PUT DOWN PLAYERS AT ALL
- ADDRESS THE OPPOSITION IF THEY ARE NOT ADHERING TO THE *THEIR GAME* CODE OF CONDUCT (USE THE RESPECT STEWARD)

*Under 7s Only: Restrict Yourself to Encouragement Coaching

10 TIPS FOR COACHING CHILDREN

SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE CHILDREN. GIVE THEM POSITIVE FEEDBACK.

MAKE THE EXPERIENCE MEMORABLE FOR YOUR PLAYERS. MAKE IT FUN.

HELP PLAYERS TO LEARN FROM FAILURE.

TEACH CHILDREN LIFE LESSONS THEY CAN LEARN FROM SPORT.

RESPECT REFEREES, PLAYERS, OPPONENTS AND PARENTS.

BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG PLAYERS.

KEEP LEARNING AND EXPANDING YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF COACHING.

GET TO KNOW THE PLAYERS IN YOUR TEAM. UNDERSTAND HOW THEY REACT TO WHAT YOU SAY AND DO.

BE ORGANISED. PLAN SESSIONS AND BE PREPARED FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES.

BE AWARE OF YOUR BODY LANGUAGE AND HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

DO

- HAVE FUN; IT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL HERE FOR!
- APPLAUD GOOD PLAY AND CELEBRATE WHEN A GOAL IS SCORED
- TALK AMONGST YOURSELVES ON THE TOUCHLINE
- LET THE PLAYERS PLAY; IT IS ONLY ONE FIXTURE
- BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR CHILD
- CHEER FOR BOTH TEAMS AT THE FINAL WHISTLE
- RESPECT THE REFEREE'S DECISION
- STAY BEHIND THE TOUCHLINE AND WITHIN THE DESIGNATED SPECTATORS' AREA
- BECOME FAMILIAR WITH WHO YOUR APPOINTED RESPECT STEWARD IS
- REPORT ANY CONCERNS YOU HAVE TO THE APPOINTED RESPECT STEWARD

DON'T

- COMMENT OR SPEAK TO THE REFEREE DURING THE MATCH
- GLOAT OR ANTAGONISE THE OPPOSITION
- TRY AND COACH, YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A BRILLIANT VOLUNTEER FOR THAT
- ADDRESS THE OPPOSITION IF THEY ARE NOT ADHERING TO THE *THEIR GAME* CODE OF CONDUCT (USE THE RESPECT STEWARD)

10 TIPS FOR FOOTBALL PARENTS

FOCUS ON THE PROCESS, NOT THE RESULT.

DO NOT CONSTANTLY INSTRUCT DURING TRAINING AND GAMES.

AVOID PRESSURING A CHILD ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING.

RESPECT AND DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE COACH.

HELP YOUR CHILD TO SEPARATE SPORT FAILURE FROM PERSONAL FAILURE.

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO YOUR CHILD.

GIVE YOUR CHILD FREEDOM TO PROBLEM SOLVE AND MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DECISIONS.

ENCOURAGE, ENCOURAGE, ENCOURAGE.

ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO PLAY FOR HIS OR HERSELF.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR REFEREES

DO

- THE SAME AMAZING JOB YOU DO EVERY MATCH
- REPORT THOSE WHO DO NOT ADHERE TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY CONTACTING THE LEAGUE SECRETARY
- SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COACHES
- ALLOW CHILDREN TO TALK OPENLY ON THE PITCH
- ASSIST PLAYERS WITH MATCH RULES WHERE NECESSARY
- SPLIT THE GAME INTO QUARTERS TO ALLOW COACHES TO SPEAK TO PLAYERS (SUBJECT TO LEAGUE DISCRETION)

DON'T

- STOP PARENTS AND COACHES FROM TALKING QUIETLY AMONG THEMSELVES
- BE AFRAID TO STOP THE PLAY TO ADDRESS SOMEONE NOT ADHERING TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

RESPECT STEWARD ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO THE OPPOSITION RESPECT STEWARD & THE MATCH OFFICIAL**
- **THE RESPECT STEWARD WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FLUORESCENT HI-VIZ JACKET**
- **ENSURING THAT THEIR OWN SPECTATORS COMPLY WITH THEIR GAME CODES OF CONDUCT AND RESPECT DESIGNATED SPECTATORS AREA**
- **REMIND OWN SUPPORTERS OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO RESPECT**
- **SUPPORT THE REFEREE WHEN DEALING WITH ANY SPECTATOR RELATED ISSUE WITHIN YOUR OWN TEAM**
- **USE COMMON SENSE AT ALL TIMES TO BE A VISUAL POINT OF CONTACT FOR ANY CONCERNS FROM THE OPPOSITION RESPECT STEWARD**
- **DEPENDENT ON LEAGUE PROCEDURES THE RESPECT STEWARD MAY ASSIST TO CHECK REGISTRATION CARDS OR COMPLETE MATCH RESULT CARDS**

REPORTING PROCESS

PLEASE FIND BELOW THE REPORTING PROCESS FOR CLUBS & REFEREES IF THEY FEEL ANY OF THE CODES OF CONDUCT HAVE BEEN BREACHED:

FOR CLUBS (U7-13)

- **Coaches and parents/spectators to report any concerns to the Respect Steward**
- **Respect Steward reports any concerns to the Club Secretary**
- **Club Secretary reports any concerns to the League Secretary**

FOR CLUBS (U14-18)

- **Coaches and parents/spectators to report any concerns to the Club Secretary (if no Respect Steward is appointed)**
- **Club Secretary reports any concerns to the League Secretary**

FOR REFEREES

- **Referees report any concerns to the League Secretary**



RESPECT



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FAQS

Q. What is *Their Game*?

A. *Their Game* aims to create a fun, safe and developmental experience for all children in youth football by allowing them to make their own decisions, enabling them to play the game with freedom, without pressure or over-emphasis on winning at all costs.

Q. Why do Hampshire FA deliver this?

A. To recognise the achievements of clubs and leagues that already promote the values of their game, raising awareness of some of the concerns children have when playing football and ensuring consistency across the board.

Q. What are the rules of their game?

A. A code of conduct has been created for coaches, referees and parents, this can be found in this resource. In addition, all resources will be circulated to all clubs and leagues. Please read them thoroughly.

Q. What are the coaches supposed to do if they cannot communicate?

A. Coaches are encouraged to give clear instructions to players before the game starts, take notes during the game and utilise half time or designated breaks to communicate to players positively. Also, coaches can communicate to players through the captain or substitutes during suitable breaks in play.

Q. How do we know who is part of the *Their Game*?

A. A list of participating leagues will be advertised on www.HampshireFA.com, however we encourage as many teams to sign as possible, to ensure effective support of the *Their Game* message.

Q. What happens if we are playing a team that have not signed up?

A. You could hand out the promotional material and code of conduct to all spectators, encouraging them to support their game.

Q. What if a game gets called off?

A. Explore the possibility of holding a *Their Game* match with the opponent once the fixture is rearranged.

Q. What will happen if spectators do not follow the code of conduct?

A. Following the FA's Respect codes of conduct, they may be asked to leave the venue, meet with the club's committee and/or welfare officer, or be asked not to attend future games. There must be a respect steward nominated from each team from U7-13, this is to ensure the code of conduct is applied appropriately.

Q. Can we use this as a fundraising opportunity?

A. Absolutely! You can tie a sponsored their game match in with a local charity or with a national charity.

Q. How will you know if it has been successful?

A. Research will be carried out around this initiative, and the results will be used to determine future initiatives and projects.

Q. Who can I contact for more details?

A. Charlotte Brown on 01256 853 017 or Charlotte.Brown@HampshireFA.com



THANK YOU

YOUR SUPPORT IS WHAT MAKES IT THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

You will have the chance to feedback via a link to the *Their Game* survey (sent out via League Secretary).

You can also access this via the Hampshire FA app.



RESPECT

FOR ALL

