

# Women and Girls Pledge



It's well known that football has the power to change lives for the better. Not only does it make a significant contribution to improving physical and mental health, it can also unite communities, build aspiration, reduce inequalities and bring joy to those involved.

So why do half the population still face considerable barriers to participation that deny them access to the game and prevent them from enjoying these benefits?

We believe that every woman and girl who wants to play, coach, spectate, officiate, manage or administer in Hertfordshire football should have the opportunity to do so. It's time to make our game stronger by ensuring that everyone has the chance to be part of it.

**By signing this pledge, we commit to creating equality of opportunity, promoting and delivering the highest standards across our club. This includes:**

## 1. CLUB LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

*We commit to ensuring that the running of our club reflects our goal of creating equality of opportunity within football. We will achieve this by:*

- Recruiting volunteers based on merit from a diverse pool of talent that is representative of the community that we serve
- Having a senior leadership role which is dedicated to supporting the club in its mission to increase female provision
- Ensuring that decisions made across our club in all areas of its operation are aligned with delivering equality of opportunity
- Regularly monitoring our progress against the commitments in this pledge and reporting back to the club's leadership

## 2. PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES

*We commit to increasing opportunities for female players, helping to ensure they have equal access to football. We will achieve this by:*

- Prioritising the creation of new female teams with a view to providing a complete and sustainable player pathway from U8 to adult
- Creating recreational offers for young players, catering for girls starting their journey or who can't commit to league football
- Creating recreational female football sessions for adults, providing opportunities to get back into the game or try it for the first time

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## 3. COACHING AND REFEREEING

*We commit to increasing opportunities for females to develop within the coaching and refereeing pathways. We will achieve this by:*

- Creating a culture that actively encourages a greater number of female coaches and referees to be involved across all areas of our club
- Supporting our young female players in gaining initial coaching qualifications and offering opportunities for them to get involved as a junior coach
- Supporting our young female players in becoming referees and offering opportunities to become fully qualified and progress as match officials
- Supporting our female coaches in their development and offering them the appropriate platform to achieve additional qualifications

## 4. RAISING AWARENESS

*We commit to raising awareness of female football and our commitment to equality in the game. We will achieve this by:*

- Proudly showing our support for campaigns by The FA, Hertfordshire FA, and other bodies promoting equal access to the game
- Publicising our commitment to expanding opportunities for women and girls, and demonstrating how we are putting this into practice
- Celebrating events in the female football calendar such as the Women's FA Cup Final, Women's Euros and World Cup

## MAKE YOUR PLEDGE

Our club commits to the above pledges with the goal of creating more opportunities for women and girls to be involved in football in every area of the game:

Club:

Name:

Role:

Date:

*Once complete, return to Hertfordshire FA so that we may record and celebrate the efforts of clubs working to delivering the goal of #EqualPlay in football across our county.*

**Thank you for your support!**

# #EqualPlay

