



#LETTHEMPLAY

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



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.Langley-Brown@HampshireFA.com



HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THEIR GAME

1

Ensure you share the date Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd October 2021 with your members, clubs, coaches, referees and contacts.

2

Share the codes of conduct with all your members, clubs, coaches, referees and contacts.

3

Contact your local press, pledging your support.

4

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.**

**KEEP
LEARNING AND
EXPANDING
YOUR
KNOWLEDGE OF
COACHING.**

**BE A ROLE
MODEL FOR
YOUNG
PLAYERS.**

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

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

**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.**

**ALLOW YOUR
CHILD TO PLAY
FOR HIS OR
HERSELF.**

**ENCOURAGE
YOUR CHILD
TO TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THEIR
DECISIONS.**

**ENCOURAGE,
ENCOURAGE.
ENCOURAGE.**

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**

THE FA RESPECT PROGRAMME MUST BE CONSIDERED BY THE RESPECT STEWARD AT ALL TIMES.



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 (U7-15)

- 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 (U16-18)

- 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



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 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 U7-15, 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.Langley-Brown@HampshireFA.com

***Please note: Some leagues require a Respect steward at all age groups. If you are unsure please check with your League Committee.**





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).

