



RESPECT

Good Practice #1 2018/19 –

Leicestershire & Rutland Inclusive Football League

Context

The Leicestershire & Rutland Inclusive football league is an FA Respect and Charter Standard league, and has been since its creation in 2009. We are a Nike Partner League with 35 teams over 6 divisions – U10's, U14's (disability football has a dispensation of a 4 year age bracket compared to mainstream) Adult Female, and three Adult Male Divisions. Our league is very unique as we are the only league in Leicestershire with all age groups. The league plays monthly fixture held as a central venue league.

Leanne Naudusevics, one of the league welfare officers, alongside being their respect ambassador and sits on the LRCFA Respect Steering Group now detail how the league embeds respect.

How the league creates a fun, safe and inclusive environment

The League has its own values that support the respect campaign ethos, which is very important to the way the league is delivered, which runs over all of our age groups, from juniors to adults.

These values underpin the whole league where teams show fair play, respect and good team work, which are rewarded as winner values rather than the score line, as behaviour is rewarded and not the result. The league has seven 'non-competitive' festivals rewarded on behaviour and respect. As well as three cup competitions, The Rudkin Cup, The FA's People's Cup and the League Cup, which are our competitive festivals where the winners are rewarded with a trophy.

The league actively promote expectations of the players, coaches and parents/spectators before the season begins at its annual coaches and managers evening, and this is reiterated at each of the league events; with respect signage, respect lines and promotional materials on display. This also drives home that message to spectators and parents/carers once again, alongside the players, leaving the coaches to do their work.

The league also has a bespoke dedicated FA Coach Mentor to support coaches at their clubs and on match days. He offers his wealth of experience to the dedicated team of coaches, therefore helping support this ethos between the league's coaches, so they all support each other.

We only do positive.



What has been the positive impact on those individuals involved in the league?

The league's values of good behaviour and good attitude are naturally drilled into the coaches, parents, spectators and therefore the players, which creates an inclusive environment as it does not matter about the ability or the disability. The league values the environment and playing ethos over the scores. By taking the competitiveness away from the events, the league feels it creates a more of a fun environment, where all the players can come together and just play.

With each of the divisions having their own dedicated playing areas, a safe environment is created, but still allowing age groups to interact with each other. It's important for the league to break those barriers down so that it's not scary for the juniors coming through, who will one day play within the adults.

The fun element is rewarded with the smiles and enthusiasm of the players knowing they are playing for our inclusive cup based on our values, so win, lose or draw, everyone is in with a shot. Coaches also add to this, creating the right environment by working with each other, rewarding all the players, those on their team or their opposition, alongside the referees giving lots of praise to all the players.

Everyone's working for the same thing, and that's for all the players to enjoy themselves and their football. Football is everyone's game!

More Info

To learn more about the Leicestershire & Rutland Inclusive Football League, please contact LRIFL@outlook.com or for more information on local opportunities or want to learn more about inclusive football please contact Philippa Bass, Football Development Officer (Disability), Philippa.Bass@leicestershirefa.com



We only do positive.

