

Amateur Football Combination

“Respect” Club Information Workshop



When and Where

The Amateur Football Combination Club Respect Workshop will be held on Friday 4th September, 6.30pm at the Chadwick Street Recreation Centre, 1 Chadwick Street, Westminster, SW1P 2EP. The workshop will be no more than 2 hours. There will also be a presentation about Charter Standard.

Clubs are reminded that attendance is mandatory (a requirement laid down by the Football Association for us to become a Respect League).

Why are We Holding It?

Everyone in the AFC should be aware that over the last few seasons, Spirit of Football has become an integral part of the league. When the Football Association launched its Respect Programme, we saw many elements of Spirit of Football within it, and we've wanted to embrace the concept.

To become a “Respect” League (which we would hope/expect impacts on referee recruitment, player behaviour and many other aspects of our football), we are required to hold a Respect Workshop for clubs. Leagues cannot simply sign up without involving clubs.

What is the Purpose of the Workshop?

The workshop is intended to explain to **clubs** how to deliver Respect to their members, and what expectations there are of the club. The workshops for referees are different, as they focus on the refereeing side of Respect. Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their members, and need to be aware of the consequences and implications of the AFC signing up to Respect.

What's the Point of Respect?

Respect (and Spirit of Football) are not simply about being “nice to referees”. It's about the atmosphere and spirit in which our game is played. Can anyone who was involved in grassroots football twenty years ago claim the game is friendlier, more social, with a better spirit?

The game has changed. In some areas, for the better, serious injury is less likely, but in many areas for worse. There is too much abuse (towards referees, opponents and even team-mates) and too much confrontation. If we want to reverse this decline, everyone involved has to put their hands up, and make our contribution.

It won't happen overnight. Much of this behaviour is subconscious, people don't even realise they're doing it, so it's a long term campaign. Yes, we'd like to see the professionals behaving impeccably, because whether we like it or not they're our role models, but small steps are better than none.

Charter Standard

Also on the evening, Bob Leeds (AFA Development Officer) will give a short presentation about Charter Standard. Again, it's about improving our clubs and our leagues, and we're aware of the time required to gather clubs, so we feel it's best to get Bob in on the same evening.