



RESPECT TALK

Respect Talk at the start of Junior Football games

The Respect Talk is an integral part of Junior Football.

It is promoted as good practice and aligns with the FA respect agenda.

All AFC Bridgnorth Spartans Team are to have a Respect Talk at the start of each game. All the points below should be covered. However, Managers and Coaches may choose to add points to meet the needs of their age group and the fixture.

5 minutes before kick-off the ref should blow the whistle and call all players, managers, and lines people to the centre circle or to the half way line between the centre circle and the side line. Players should stand facing each other.

Having the respect talk closer to the sideline has proved to be helpful to ensure parents are brought in to the respect talk with the aim of them sharing the responsibility.

The home side manager should position themselves next to the visiting manager and ensure all the players, coaches and parents can hear. The home manager should welcome both teams, coaches and parents and then proceed to cover the points below.

- The length of time for each half. If a cup game explain the extra time and penalty rules.
- Introduce the referee. State that what he/she says goes. That players are play to the whistle. Ask all players to verbally agree to this. Ask coaches to agree to this.
- Introduce the people who are running the line. State that their indication of a decision is confirmed by the referee.
- If the referee is qualified. State that they are qualified.

- If the referee is a parent state that they are volunteering (as the line people) and they are to be given respect throughout the game.
- Ask the players to confirm that they understand and agree to that. Ask the coaches to confirm that they understand and agree to that.
- State that abusive language will not be tolerated toward other players, coaches, to the referee or lines people. Ask players, coaches and parents (if you are giving the talk nearer to parents) to agree to this.
- State that this is a game of football for the players to enjoy and it is the responsibility of the adults to ensure that they feel safe and secure to play the game. It is therefore the responsibility of all adults to ensure they manage any strong emotions they have.
- State it is a great day for a game of footy and it will be even better if we all follow these respect rules.
- Then read your players names from Whole Game System print out you will have. The visiting manager should have sight of this too. Your players should then go along the line and shake hands of the visiting players, managers, lines people.
- The visiting manager will then call his/her players names out. They step forward as their name is read (no need to shake everyone's hand again).
- Finally wish both teams and the visiting managers good luck.

GAME ON