



# Bishops Cleeve Colts FC

Formed 1971

Affiliated to the Gloucestershire Youth Football Association  
Member of the Cheltenham Youth Football League  
Member of the Gloucester County Girls Football League  
Part of the Bishops Cleeve Football Partnership



CHARTER STANDARD  
COMMUNITY CLUB

## BCC FC Supporters Respect Notice

CYFL Purple Shirts Campaign: <https://www.cheltenhamyouthleague.co.uk/img/cyfl/purple-shirt---copy.jpg>

GFA: Purple Shirts article: <https://www.gloucestershirefa.com/news/2019/feb/06/cheltenham-youth-leagues-purple-shirt-initiative-gathering-national-momentum>

BBC Purple Shirts report: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-bristol-48231079>

BCC FC Respect Code of Conduct (agreed with by all members at registration): <https://bishopsclleevecolts.co.uk/about-us/>

### Abuse of Young Referees

At a recent home game there was a significant amount of unacceptable abuse towards a young referee.

**This message is a firm reminder, from the BCC FC committee, to all our members, that any such behaviour is not acceptable.**

We hope that all will join us in condemning such behaviour, in actively discouraging any slip from the respect code of conduct we all signed up to when we applied for membership this season, and in reporting any such incidents we may witness to team or club officials.

The young people, clearly identified in purple shirts, who referee many of our games are children. They deserve our support and encouragement in taking on the role of referee. They are learning new skills and will make mistakes. Their mistakes are acceptable, abusing these children from the sidelines is not.

One of our own local competitions, the Cheltenham Youth Football League, are the originators of the Purple Shirt Initiative. It introduced purple shirts for youth referees to clearly identify them and reduce incidents of abuse. This campaign has since been adopted across the UK, and in other countries around the world. It is a source of justified local pride. It is embarrassing to act against it.

## Purple Shirt Initiative



### Consequences



The consequences of such behaviour may range from County FA, to competition, to club sanctions, and could even involve the police. It is, after all, aggressive and abusive behaviour towards a child. Everyone needs to be aware that any impacts will ultimately always falls on the club, the team and the players, ultimately resulting in no football for those players affected.



The County FA can charge the club and team officials for failing to control supporters. That can mean bans from football, resulting in no football for those players affected for a period of time. We do not have reserves of players for each team and spare team officials, such bans will mean broken fixtures and loss of points for the team.

Our local competition could ask member clubs to decide upon expulsion of teams or clubs from the competition, resulting in no football for those players affected. Our local competition assigns referees to our games. If given reason not to, it is the experience of our own players that will be diminished. Untrained people will have to referee – most do not properly understand football's laws.



BCC FC play largely on publicly accessible grounds – we don't have means to prevent people from attending and watching our games. Our only available choices are to warn our members to improve behaviour, or to expel members or teams from the club, resulting in no football for those players affected.

**Most of our people at BCC FC are perfectly respectful, but be certain that if faced with loss of football for all, due to continued lack of respect, we will expel offending players and teams.**



# RESPECT

v2, Sep 2020

*We only do positive.*