



Regulation 6.1 – Participation & Behaviour Policy.

Effective date: June 2025

Acknowledgements

MUSC CIC would like to express our thanks to the following organisations who have assisted in the development of this policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Mariners United Sporting Club CIC (MUSC CIC) is committed to ensuring that all participants are able to take part in activities in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment. Participation in MUSC CIC activities is a privilege and not a right, and it carries responsibilities for behaviour, respect for others and adherence to organisational values.

This policy sets out the expectations placed on all participants and explains how behaviour will be managed to protect safety, welfare and enjoyment for everyone involved.

1. INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of this regulation, participants include players, athletes, learners, children, young people, adults, parents or guardians where applicable, and any individual taking part in MUSC CIC activities. Participation includes involvement in training sessions, competitions, events, workshops, meetings, travel, accommodation and online engagement connected to MUSC CIC.

This policy applies at all times when individuals are participating in, attending or representing MUSC CIC.

2. EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Participants are expected to engage in MUSC CIC activities in a manner that demonstrates respect, fairness and consideration for others. Participants must follow the rules of the activity, comply with instructions from coaches, officials, staff and volunteers, and behave in a way that supports positive participation and community cohesion.

3. BEHAVIOUR STANDARDS

Behaviour that is abusive, discriminatory, aggressive, intimidating or disruptive will not be tolerated. This includes physical behaviour, verbal abuse, bullying, harassment, threatening conduct and inappropriate online behaviour. Discrimination or prejudice on the basis of protected characteristics is strictly prohibited.

Participants must not behave in a way that places themselves or others at risk or undermines the safety, integrity or reputation of MUSC CIC.

4. SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount. Participants must act in a manner that supports safeguarding and must not engage in conduct that could place others at risk. Safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately in accordance with MUSC CIC safeguarding procedures.

MUSC CIC reserves the right to remove any participant from an activity immediately where welfare or safety is compromised.

5. FAIR PLAY AND RESPECT FOR OFFICIALS

Participants are expected to uphold the principles of fair play and to respect the decisions of referees, officials, coaches and event leads. Disputes must be raised appropriately and respectfully.

6. ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE USE

Participants must not attend or take part in MUSC CIC activities under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs. The possession, use or distribution of illegal substances during MUSC CIC activities is strictly prohibited.

7. ONLINE AND DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

This policy applies equally to online behaviour. Participants must not post, share or engage in content that is abusive, discriminatory, misleading or damaging to MUSC CIC or its members.

8. BREACHES AND SANCTIONS

Breaches of this policy may result in proportionate action, including warnings, suspension, removal from sessions or events, or longer-term exclusion. Where behaviour raises safeguarding or legal concerns, MUSC CIC may involve external agencies or authorities.

9. ROLE OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Parents and guardians are expected to support this policy, encourage positive behaviour and act respectfully towards all participants, staff and officials. Behaviour by parents or guardians that undermines safety or wellbeing may result in action being taken.

10. PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT – FORMAL DISCLAIMER

Participation in any Mariners United Sporting Club CIC activity constitutes acceptance of the following Participant Code of Conduct, which forms an integral and enforceable part of this policy.

All participants agree that they will treat others with respect, dignity and fairness at all times and will not engage in discrimination, bullying, harassment or abusive behaviour. Participants agree to behave responsibly, follow the rules of the activity, respect officials and coaches, and act in a way that keeps themselves and others safe.

Participants acknowledge that safeguarding is a shared responsibility and agree to report any concerns relating to safety, welfare or inappropriate behaviour. Participants further agree that this Code applies both in person and online and that alcohol, illegal drugs or non-prescribed substances have no place in MUSC CIC activities.

Failure to comply with the Participant Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including removal from activities, suspension or exclusion. For participants under the age of eighteen, acceptance of this Code is deemed to include the understanding and support of parents or guardians.

By participating in MUSC CIC activities, individuals confirm that they have read, understood and agree to comply with this policy and the Participant Code of Conduct contained within it.

11. REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by the MUSC CIC Board to ensure it remains effective, inclusive and aligned with safeguarding and governance requirements.

12. RELATED DOCUMENTS

This policy should be read in conjunction with MUSC CIC's Volunteer & Staff Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy, Complaints Policy & Procedure, Whistleblowing Policy and Health & Safety Policy.