



## Little Giants Volleyball Club

### Club Code of Conduct

#### 1. Purpose

Little Giants Volleyball Club is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, inclusive and respectful environment for everyone involved in the club.

This Code of Conduct applies to all players, junior members, parents and guardians, coaches, staff, volunteers, officials, spectators and anyone representing or participating in club activities.

By joining, attending or participating in club activities, individuals are expected to follow this Code of Conduct alongside the club's safeguarding, equality, membership and other relevant policies.

#### 2. Expected Standards of Behaviour

Everyone involved with the club is expected to treat teammates, coaches, staff, volunteers, opponents, officials, venue staff and members of the public with respect.

Members should behave in a way that supports a positive training and competition environment. Aggressive, threatening, abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or deliberately disruptive behaviour will not be accepted.

Bullying, harassment, discrimination or victimisation on the basis of race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or any other protected or personal characteristic will not be tolerated.

Members must follow reasonable instructions from coaches, club officials and venue staff and comply with venue rules and health and safety requirements.

### 3. Players

Players are expected to attend training and matches punctually and prepared to participate.

Where a player cannot attend a session, match or other commitment, they should inform the appropriate coach or team contact as early as reasonably possible.

Players must respect coaching decisions, including team selection, playing time, position, squad allocation and tactical decisions.

Selection for a squad does not guarantee selection for every match or a particular amount of court time.

Players should support teammates and contribute positively to the training environment, including when they are not selected to play.

Players must treat opposition players, referees and match officials respectfully regardless of the result or any disagreement with a decision.

Any concern regarding coaching, selection or another player should be raised privately through the appropriate club channel rather than during a session, match or publicly.

### 4. Junior Players

Junior members must listen to coaches and follow instructions designed to keep sessions safe and organised.

Junior players should treat other young people, coaches, volunteers and venue staff respectfully.

Bullying, exclusion, intimidation, inappropriate physical behaviour or abusive language will not be accepted.

Junior players must not leave a session or venue without the knowledge of the responsible coach or, where appropriate, their parent or guardian.

Any junior who feels uncomfortable, unsafe or concerned about another person's behaviour should speak to a coach, safeguarding officer, parent or another trusted adult.

## 5. Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are expected to support a positive sporting environment for their child and other participants.

Coaching should be left to the appointed coaching staff during sessions and matches.

Parents should not confront coaches, players, referees or other parents during or immediately after matches or training.

Any concern should be raised calmly and through the appropriate club contact.

Parents are responsible for following the club's arrangements regarding registration, collection, drop-off, membership and emergency contact information.

Parents must not encourage behaviour that conflicts with the club's values or place inappropriate pressure on a young athlete regarding performance, selection or results.

## 6. Coaches, Staff and Volunteers

Coaches, staff and volunteers must maintain appropriate professional boundaries and act in the best interests of participants.

They must treat participants fairly and respectfully and must not use their position to intimidate, humiliate, exploit or discriminate against anyone.

All staff and volunteers working with children and young people must follow the club's safeguarding procedures.

Communication with junior members must follow the club's safeguarding arrangements, including the appropriate involvement of parents, guardians or safeguarding personnel where required.

Confidential or sensitive information obtained through a club role must be handled appropriately.

Any safeguarding concern must be reported through the club's safeguarding procedure rather than investigated informally by individuals.

## 7. Communication, WhatsApp and Social Media

Club communication channels are intended for appropriate club-related communication.

Abusive, threatening, discriminatory, sexually inappropriate or deliberately inflammatory messages are not permitted.

Members should avoid personal disputes in team group chats and should raise individual concerns privately with the appropriate coach or club official.

Private information about another member should not be shared without permission.

Screenshots, private messages, photographs or videos involving another member should not be circulated inappropriately.

Junior communication groups must follow the club's safeguarding procedures.

Members should remember that behaviour on social media can affect other members and the reputation of the club. Serious online misconduct connected to the club may therefore be dealt with under this Code.

## 8. Photography and Video

Photography and filming may take place during club activities for coaching, promotional and club purposes in accordance with club policy and safeguarding requirements.

Members must not take or distribute inappropriate photographs or videos.

Special care must be taken when images involve children or young people.

Any request not to be included in promotional photography should be communicated to the club.

## 9. Venues and Equipment

Everyone must respect the facilities used by the club.

Equipment must be used correctly and returned as instructed.

Players and staff should assist with reasonable setup and pack-down requirements where appropriate.

Damage caused deliberately or through reckless behaviour may result in disciplinary action and, where appropriate, a request to cover the cost of repair or replacement.

Nobody may enter a court or participate in a session unless they are authorised or properly booked to attend.

## 10. Matches, Competitions and Representation of the Club

Anyone representing London Giants / Little Giants is expected to behave appropriately both on and off court.

Abuse of referees, officials, opponents or event staff will not be tolerated.

Players and staff must comply with the rules of the relevant competition and governing body.

Where a person is wearing club kit or attending an event as part of the club, their behaviour may reasonably be regarded as representing the club.

## 11. Alcohol, Drugs and Smoking

Participants must not attend training or competition while impaired by alcohol or illegal drugs.

Illegal drug use connected with club activities will not be tolerated.

Smoking or vaping must comply with venue rules and must not take place in areas where it is prohibited.

Additional sporting or governing-body rules may apply to performance-enhancing or prohibited substances.

## 12. Safeguarding and Welfare

The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable participants is a priority.

Any concern about abuse, neglect, grooming, inappropriate communication, harassment or another safeguarding matter should be reported promptly to the club's designated safeguarding contact.

Safeguarding concerns should not be discussed unnecessarily in team groups or publicly.

Where appropriate, the club may need to share safeguarding information with governing bodies, statutory authorities or other relevant organisations.

## 13. Raising Concerns

Members are encouraged to raise genuine concerns constructively.

Where possible, routine team matters should first be raised with the relevant coach or team manager.

More serious concerns may be raised directly with club management or the safeguarding officer, depending on the nature of the issue.

The club will aim to deal with concerns fairly and proportionately.

Knowingly making malicious or deliberately false allegations may itself be treated as misconduct.

## 14. Breaches of the Code

The club may take action where behaviour falls below the standards set out in this Code.

Depending on the circumstances and seriousness of the matter, action may include an informal discussion, verbal warning, written warning, removal from a particular session or match, temporary suspension, removal from a team or programme, termination of membership or involvement with the club, or referral to Volleyball England, safeguarding authorities, the police or another appropriate organisation.

The club is not required to follow every stage in sequence where an allegation is sufficiently serious.

Where immediate action is considered necessary to protect participants or the club, an individual may be temporarily suspended while a matter is reviewed.

## 15. Acceptance

By becoming a member, participating in club activities, volunteering, coaching, working with the club or attending as a parent or guardian, individuals agree to behave in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

The club may update this Code from time to time to reflect changes in safeguarding guidance, governing-body requirements and club operations.

Little Giants Volleyball Club

Code of Conduct – 2026/27 Season