



The Role of the Respect Marshall

Who is the role suitable for?

- An adult member of the team (18+)
- Someone who can commit to attending most matches, although there can be more than one Respect Marshall if this is not possible
- Ideally, someone who is well known and respected among parents within the team
- A good communicator, who is comfortable in speaking up, but is non-confrontational
- Has a strong belief that spectator behaviour in youth football is something that we can – and must – tackle

Role description

The Respect Marshall encourages their team's spectators to follow The Grassroots Code and live up to Code's Standards of Behaviour. They are vital in managing and monitoring behaviour on match days, and reporting instances of poor behaviour to the relevant person. The Respect Marshall may also play a part in reporting incidents relating to safeguarding and discrimination and offer impartial advice and signposting.

The Respect Marshall is not above the rules of the game or exempt from being reported for misconduct. This role should be adopted by someone who is respectful in their approach, an advocate for good behaviour in youth football, and who wants to contribute towards children having a positive experience on match days.

Responsibilities:

- Remind their team's spectators of the Standards of Behaviour, and ask that they be followed throughout the match day
- Communicate any continued or serious instances of poor behaviour to the coach / team manager or referee
- Ensure the designated spectator area for both teams is clearly marked out for home games, and for their own team when playing away
- Observe and monitor spectator behaviour, and try to de-escalate instances of poor behaviour where appropriate and safe to do so
- Agree how the Respect Marshall and referee should communicate during the match
- Ensure spectators know to stay in their designated spectator area during the match
- Debrief with the coaches and referee at the end of the match to outline how things can be improved, what if anything needs to be reported, and who will action this
- Greet the referee and opposition, show them around the facility
- Introduce the referee to the coaches, and make sure the referee is paid

The Respect Marshall should never put themselves or anyone else at risk of being physically or verbally abused by poorly behaved spectators. Their role is to monitor and de-escalate instances of poor behaviour, if possible, without confrontation.