Barnet Panthers Positive Support Policy

Watching our daughters and teammates play should be enjoyable, supportive and positive.

At Barnet Panthers, we want to create an environment where players feel confident, can make their own decisions and, most importantly, enjoy their football.

We want matches to be competitive and passionate, but always positive and respectful. We ask our own supporters to follow our Positive Support Policy and warmly invite visiting teams, coaches and supporters to join us.

In short: encourage, applaud and keep it positive.

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1. Positive Support on the Sideline

We know everyone is there to support the girls and wants to help them do well. The best way we can do that is to give them the confidence and space to play, make decisions, make mistakes and learn.

What positive support looks like:

- Encourage effort, bravery and teamwork
- Applaud good play from both teams
- Let the players make their own decisions
- Leave the coaching to the coaches
- Respect referees, linespersons and their decisions
- Keep comments towards all players, coaches and officials positive

Please avoid:

- Coaching or giving instructions from the sideline
- Shouting, swearing or negative reactions
- Challenging the referee or linesperson
- Questioning coaching decisions during the game
- Negative comments towards players from either team

If something concerns you, please speak to your coach or our matchday delegate rather than dealing with it from the touchline.

Encourage. Applaud. Keep it positive.

2. Welcoming Opposition

We want every visiting team to enjoy playing at Barnet Panthers.

We share our Positive Support Policy with opposition teams before matches and ask visiting coaches, parents and supporters to join us in creating a friendly, positive but still competitive atmosphere.

The same standards apply to everyone around the pitch – home and away.

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3. Away Matchdays

When Barnet Panthers teams travel, we take the same approach with us.

Our parents, families, coaches and supporters are expected to continue supporting positively and respectfully.

We will, of course, also respect the opposition club's environment and any matchday rules they have in place.

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4. Linespersons

Parents and volunteers who run the line play an important role in helping the match run fairly and smoothly.

While acting as a linesperson, we ask that they:

- Remain neutral and focused on assisting the referee
- Do not coach or give instructions
- Avoid showing bias towards either team
- Feel free to positively acknowledge good play from both teams

A simple “great effort”, “good save” or “well played” is absolutely fine. The important thing is that anyone running the line remains impartial.

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5. Matchday Delegate

Each Barnet Panthers home match will have a designated matchday delegate, normally identifiable by a bib.

Their role is to help maintain a positive matchday environment and liaise with both sets of supporters if necessary.

If you have a question or concern on the day, please speak to the matchday delegate.

We know football can become passionate. If someone's support moves away from our positive approach, they may be gently reminded of the policy.

In the rare situation where behaviour continues, they may be asked to step away from the pitch area so that we can maintain the right environment for the players.

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6. Referees and Respect

We support referees in helping us maintain a positive environment.

Please respect their decisions, even when you disagree with them.

If the referee feels that behaviour around the pitch is becoming inappropriate, they may speak to the matchday delegate or take whatever action is necessary to allow the game to continue in a positive and respectful environment.

Final Note

This policy isn't about taking the passion out of football.

We want encouragement. We want applause. We want people enjoying the game.

It's simply about making sure the players are at the centre of everything we do and are given the space to play, learn and enjoy their football.

Thank you for helping us create a positive, competitive and enjoyable matchday for everyone at Barnet Panthers.