

Fair Play Codes for Coaches, Players, Referees, Parents and Spectators



THE BEST FAMILY SPORTING ACTIVITY IN SCOTLAND



CREATING A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR RUGBY

Introduction



The best family sporting activity in Scotland

Rugby, in all its forms, is essentially a players game, however, in order that the game is well organised, played safely and in congenial surroundings, there is a place in rugby for everyone; player, referee, coach/teacher, organiser, parent, volunteer and supporter.

Those involved, or becoming involved, in the sport will gain greater enjoyment, excitement and satisfaction from that involvement if they respect and apply the spirit and ethos of these FAIR PLAY CODES.

They apply to all levels of the game and acknowledge the core values of respect for self, others and the laws of the game.









The positive input of volunteers enriches and strengthens the sport.

These FAIR PLAY CODES can help rugby in its different forms become the best family sporting activity in Scotland.

Ian McGeechan
SRU Director of Rugby














The Rugby Partnership - Making it Work!



-  Where necessary provide information on possible financial issues that the club/school programme may involve.
-  Agree issues relating to Duty of Care (e.g. responsibility for travelling to and from games). (see back page for details)
-  Encourage parents to support all rugby activities reminding them that they are an integral part of the school/club rugby community.
-  Ensure that parents understand that the “win at all costs” ethos is not acceptable in Rugby Union and is counter productive to the individual development of any player.
-  Inform everyone about specialist equipment required (e.g. gum shields) and where they can be purchased.
-  Ensure everyone is aware of what is acceptable touchline behaviour.
-  Gain agreement and permission for all matters involving children.
-  Ensure that parents have realistic aspirations for their child and are aware of his/her strengths and weaknesses.








Code for Coaches[®]



-  Coaches should maintain or develop a positive involvement with the SRU Coach Development Programme.
-  Make a personal commitment to keep themselves informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of the growth and development of young people.
-  Coaches working with young players, must be registered within the Club Child Protection Policy and abide by the procedures included.
-  Remember that all players need a coach they can respect – be generous with praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
-  Be pragmatic with demands on the young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
-  Remember that children have other interests and demands on their time and should be encouraged to enjoy those other activities.
-  Teach players that the laws of the sport are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
-  Ensure that all players participate – average and below average participants need and deserve fair time and attention. Some players play for fun.
-  Promote respect for opponents, match officials, opposing coaches and spectators.
-  Seek and follow medical advice as to when an injured player is ready to participate again.
-  Never criticise match officials during or after the match in front of players or spectators – always thank officials and if they have made any decisions, which require clarification, discuss that privately with them afterwards.
-  Encourage young people to develop a FAIRPLAY ethos and avoid over-specialisation during their formative years.
-  Insist on fair and disciplined play – do not tolerate foul play, cheating, violence or bad language. They are disruptive to the game.











Code for Players



-  Be positive, always try to make the game better for yourself and your team.
-  Abide by the laws of the game. Respecting decisions of match officials. The abuse of match officials is unacceptable.
-  Control your temper – use of foul language brings the game into disrepute.
-  Be a good sport – respect all good performance, whether by your team or by the opposition.
-  The aim of playing is to have fun, improve your skills and do your best.
-  At the end of play, thank your opponents and the match officials for their involvement.
-  Win with humility – Lose with dignity.






Code for Parents[®]



-  Do not force an unwilling youngster to participate
-  Never ridicule or shout at children for making a mistake or losing.
-  Encourage all children to play by the laws of the game.
-  Teach young people that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each contest is accepted without undue disappointment.
-  Turn defeat into victory by helping young people to develop a positive work ethic for self and team improvement.
-  Remember that young people learn from good examples.
-  Respect the role of match officials, before, during and after the game.
-  Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all levels of the game.
-  Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your children.
-  Be aware of the Club or School Child Protection Policy.








Code for Spectators



-  Help the players to enjoy themselves, by lending positive support.
-  The abuse of players, coaches or officials is unacceptable. Be positive and support our team.
-  Acknowledge and respect good performance by both teams.
-  Spectators should not enter the playing enclosure. The running of the game is the remit of the match officials.
-  Remember that the children are playing for FUN. The game they play belongs to them, not to the adults. They are not professional or international gladiators.

Code for Referees[®]



-  Make a personal commitment to keep abreast of refereeing principles.
-  Be fully aware of the context of the game you are refereeing, e.g. age group, numbers etc.
-  Be fully aware of IRB UI9 law variations and SRU Staged Development law variations.
-  Ensure that the spirit of the game is not lost by “too much whistle”.
-  Remember that the players are there for FUN. You can make a positive contribution to their enjoyment.
-  Help clubs and schools ensure that the FAIRPLAY CODES are being applied.
-  When refereeing young players constructive coaching can be as useful as good refereeing.

Child Protection Guidance



Scottish Rugby is fortunate to have a large group of knowledgeable adult coaches introducing and developing children's appreciation and enjoyment of Rugby. The role of these adult coaches includes the need to care and protect the children within a rugby context. All rugby clubs should observe the highest standards of practice if they are to discharge this role effectively. High standards are also required in the selection of coaches and organisers who deliver rugby related activity to children.

The Scottish Rugby Union has prepared a "*Code of Good Practice*" to help rugby clubs select suitable persons to work with children. The Code draws heavily on the 'Volunteer Development Scotland - Protecting Children' publication. This publication provides useful guidelines, which will help any voluntary organisation.

Rugby clubs have been asked to review their procedures in the light of the Code of Good Practice document. All clubs must effectively implement a Club Child Protection Policy.

The SRU will provide on going training to help clubs with their commitments to this crucial area.

Summary of Recommendations

In order to safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in their charge, rugby clubs should consider the issues raised by each of the following statements of principle and take action which they deem to be appropriate in the light of their circumstances and structures, and the nature of their activities. Doing nothing is not an option.

Child Protection Guidance[®]



1. ADOPT A POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN.
2. PLAN/ORGANISE THE WORK OF THE RUGBY CLUB SO AS TO MINIMISE SITUATIONS WHERE THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN MIGHT OCCUR.
3. INTRODUCE A SYSTEM WHEREBY CHILDREN MAY TALK WITH AN INDEPENDENT PERSON.
4. APPLY THE AGREED PROCEDURES FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN TO ALL COACH/ORGANISERS.
5. GIVE ALL COACHES AND ORGANISERS CLEAR ROLES.
6. USE SUPERVISION AS A MEANS OF PROTECTING CHILDREN.
7. GAIN A DEGREE OF BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE FROM A PERSON WHO HAS EXPERIENCE OF THE COACH WORKING WITH CHILDREN.
8. ISSUE GUIDELINES ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE DISCLOSURE OR SUSPICION OF ABUSE.

Duty of Care

The working relationship between the Adults who provide the opportunity to play and the young players who take up that opportunity and participate.

This relationship is one of mutual responsibility across the agencies involved.

Adults must appreciate the effect that their behaviour has on the actions and reactions of young people. The more exciting and passionate the circumstances, the more important is the example set by the Adults.

The Club:

- The Club must take all reasonable measures to ensure that all Adults are suitable for the tasks they perform in the provision of rugby for young people.
 - See “Guidelines etc re Child Protection”.
 - Club Child Protection Policy

The Participants:

- Everyone involved should be aware of the SRU FAIR PLAY CODES and work to make them effective.
- Outwith the playing of the game Adults should be aware of the safety and well-being of the young people in their charge, and should set an appropriate example.
- All players should recognise the responsibility they carry for their own well-being, and that of other participants, before, during and after the Game.

During the game:

- The control of what happens on the playing enclosure is the sole responsibility of the match officials and the players involved.
- Adults on the touchline should not interfere with the playing of the game or enter the playing enclosure unless asked to do so by the referee, e.g. to attend an injured player.

Exceptional Circumstances:

- Should circumstances arise where the Laws of the Game are flaunted to the extent that control of the situation has moved beyond the match officials and the players, the Adults in charge can assume that the game has ceased and a common law situation has arisen. In such circumstances the Adults are advised not to become involved in the situation and to remove the players from the scene to a place of safety.
- Such a situation should never arise if the Ethos of the FAIR PLAY CODES ARE adhered to.



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