



MAFPRFC

Code of Conduct

Junior and Youth Section Season 20_21

This document details the Code of Conduct operated by Mackie Academy FP RFC for the Junior and Youth Sections of the Club. The code comprises two sections; the first deals with behaviour, and the second deals with disciplinary procedures.

BEHAVIOUR

Code for Players

- Train and play for enjoyment, not just to please your parents or coaches.
- Listen to your coaches and don't dispute their decisions.
- Don't let your behaviour spoil the enjoyment of others.
- Work equally hard to improve the performance of yourself and your team.
- Praise good performances, whether by your team or your opponents.
- Treat all participants as you would like to be treated.
- Don't interfere with, bully or take advantage of any other player.
- Control your temper, foul language and aggressive behaviour will be penalised.
- Be a good sport and abide by the laws of the game.
- Never argue with match officials, let your captain or coach ask any necessary questions.
- At the end of play, applaud and thank your opponents and the match officials.
- Win with humility and lose with dignity.
- Remember that the aim of the sport is to have fun, to improve your skills and to feel good.

Code for Parents or Guardians

- Do not force an unwilling player to participate.
- Encourage players to abide by the laws of the game.
- Help players to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Teach players to accept all decisions without argument.
- Reinforce messages about removing verbal and physical abuse from all youth sport.
- Never ridicule or shout at your child (or any other child) for making a mistake or losing.
- Teach players not to publicly question the judgement or honesty of match officials.
- Teach players that honest effort is as important as victory.
- Encourage players to accept results without undue disappointment.
- Support the volunteer coaches and officials, who give up their time to provide recreational activities for young people.
- Remember that players learn best if they are set a good example.

Code for Spectators

- Remember that the players are taking part in an organised sport for enjoyment - they are not professionals or international gladiators.
- Be on your best behaviour and never argue with, or harass, players, coaches, officials or opposing spectators.
- Remember that verbal abuse of players, coaches and officials is not acceptable in any shape or form, and never use profane language.
- Show respect for opponents, coaches and officials, without them there would be no competition.
- Acknowledge good performance and fair play by opponents as well as by your own team.
- Never ridicule or shout at any player for making a mistake or losing.
- Support efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all youth sport, both on and off the field.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Training and Events (e.g. trips to Murrayfield)

- Any player who is disruptive, uses bad language, or deliberately ignores instructions (e.g. refusing to undertake an exercise without a valid reason) will be withdrawn from the session and asked to “sit it out” or undertake general fitness exercises.
- Any player who is repeatedly disruptive, uses bad language, or deliberately ignores instructions during a session (including ignoring instructions relating to the disciplinary regimes outlined above) will be suspended from all Club activities for one week. This will be confirmed in a letter or e-mail to the parents or guardians, detailing the reason for the suspension. Youth players who have reached the age of 18 will be informed directly.
- Any player resorting to physical violence, or suspended on more than one occasion in a month for the general misdemeanours referred to above, will be withdrawn from the session and suspended from all Club activities for a period of up to four weeks, depending upon the nature and scale of the offence. This will be confirmed in a letter or e-mail to the parents or guardians, detailing the reason for the suspension. Youth players who have reached the age of 18 will be informed directly.
- Should there be any further incident, or incidents, meriting a suspension of up to four weeks, the parents or guardians will be informed in a formal letter that the player is no longer welcome at the Club. Youth players who have reached the age of 18 will be informed directly.

Matches and Tournaments

- The training disciplinary procedure will also be enforced for “off-the-field incidents” when players are representing the Club.
- If a player is “sin binned” during a match, or taken off by the coach to prevent the referee taking action, the coach will report the incident to other members of the relevant age group coaching team. If the coaching team considers that the offence warrants further punishment, the player will be suspended from all Club activities for a period of up to two weeks, depending upon the nature and scale of the offence, and will not be invited to participate in the next scheduled fixture. This will be confirmed in a letter or e-mail to the parents or guardians, detailing the reason for the suspension. Youth players who have reached the age of 18 will be informed directly.

- If a player is ordered off during a match, the coach will report the incident to other members of the relevant age group coaching team. If the coaching team considers that the offence warrants further punishment, the player will be suspended from all Club activities for a period of up to four weeks, depending upon the nature and scale of the offence, and will not be invited to participate in the next two scheduled fixtures. This will be confirmed in a letter or e-mail to the parents or guardians, detailing the reason for the suspension. Youth players who have reached the age of 18 will be informed directly.
- If a player is “sin binned”, taken off by the coach, or ordered off, and is subsequently suspended by the Club on three separate occasions in a season, the parents or guardians will be informed in a formal letter that the player is no longer welcome at the Club. Youth players who have reached the age of 18 will be informed directly.

It should be noted that players are also subject to the Discipline Code of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU). Although red and yellow cards are not used below the Under 15 level, referees can and will send off players if the offence warrants it, and can subsequently send a report to the SRU Disciplinary Panel. The sanctions and tariffs applied will then be as per the International Rugby Board – Recommended Sanctions for Offences Within the Playing Enclosure.

The bad behaviour of a few can spoil the enjoyment for the rest of all players. The Club therefore feels that it is appropriate to operate a strict Code of Conduct, and to ensure that players and parents or guardians are aware of the possible sanctions. Mackie Academy FP RFC would therefore be grateful if all parents or guardians could discuss the Code of Conduct with their respective charges, to help us all enjoy the game of Rugby Football and play it in the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Mackie Academy FP RFC Executive Committee