

# MINI & JUNIOR CODE OF CONDUCT

---

Twickenham Rugby Football Club Rugby is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the club should, at all times, show respect. You are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with either Dave Clark (Head of Mini Rugby), Andrew Morgan (Head of Junior Rugby), Catherine Smith (Child Welfare Officer) or any other Member of the Executive Committee if your issues are still not resolved).

As a member of Twickenham Rugby Football Club Rugby you are expected to abide by the following junior club rules:

## Mini and Junior Players-Code of Conduct

- Play because you want to – not to please parents or coaches.
- Skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important part.
- Never argue with the referee.
- Play well for yourself and your team. Understand the importance of team loyalty.
- It is a 'team' game! It is very rewarding to play rugby with your mates. Don't try and grab all the glory yourself
- Be a good sport; recognise all good play whether by your own team or your opponents win or lose.
- If you lose, accept it with good grace and try harder next time
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated; do not show off, do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Be attentive at all training and coaching sessions.
- Play by the Laws of the game and accept without question, the referee's decision.
- Wear your Club kit with pride and remember that you are a representative of the club when you are wearing it.
- Members must wear suitable kit (boots with safety studs (no blades), mouth guards, club kit) for training and match sessions, as agreed with the coach/team manager.
- When necessary internal disciplinary hearings will be held with parent and child present.
- Control your temper.
- Listen to your coaches and referees, work with teammates. Without them and your opponents, you cannot play!

We do not accept bad behaviour or bad sportsmanship or any breach of the above codes.

## Additional Junior Players Codes of Conduct

- All members must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions.
- All members must respect opponents.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- [\*]Members must ensure that they bring adequate water for rehydration during training sessions.
- Members must pay any fees for training or events promptly.

- Junior members are not allowed to smoke on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions.
- Junior members are not allowed to consume drugs of any kind on the club premises or whilst representing the club.

### **Parents / Carers Code of Conduct**

- Encourage your child to learn the laws and play within them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance and playing fairly, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport; they should play for their enjoyment not yours.
- Never ridicule or yell at your child for making mistakes. Support and encourage your child. Console them when they lose, but encourage them to try harder next time.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Do not question a referee or a linesman's judgement or their honesty. There is no place for 'touchline rage' in mini or junior rugby.
- Breaches of the above could result in your membership being withdrawn.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal or physical abuse from junior rugby. Report anything that concerns you to the Chairman of the Mini or Junior Section.
- Help the club function properly by turning up on time with the appropriate kit. Be prepared to help out if asked.
- Value the importance of the volunteer coaches. They give up their time to provide recreation for your child. Support their decision when your child has not been selected for a game. If you have issues with the way a coach is performing, talk to them first. Refer any issues to the Chairman of the Mini or Junior section.

### **Coaches Code of Conduct**

- Young players develop at different times; provide experiences matched to the player's ages and abilities, as well as their physical and mental development.
- Don't overload young players with demands, technical information and tactics – remember they are children and they are playing rugby for fun.
- Ensure youngsters are coached in a safer environment with first aid to hand.
- Avoid the overplaying of the best players, by using a squad system which gives every player satisfactory playing time.
- Winning isn't everything – teach your players to enjoy taking part and performing to the best of their ability. Encourage each player to reach his or her potential
- Never question an official's judgement or honesty.
- Coaches behaviour should be exemplary at all times, ensuring that players and parents have a good role model which practically demonstrates and supports the Codes of Conduct
- Never allow a player to train or play when injured.
- Ensure supervision of players, on and off the field.
- Never abuse, yell, criticise or ridicule children for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Recognise that young players should never be exposed to extremes of temperature, or unacceptable risk of injury.
- Be aware of and abide by, the policies and procedure outlined in the Club's/RFU/Sport England Child Protection policy.
- Be organised – establish a structure for the season, prepare a coaching plan for each session, have the appropriate kit. Above all, communicate to players, parents and fellow coaches to set expectations.
- Make sure players develop an understanding of the laws of the game, that they respect opponents, teammates, coaches and officials.

- Coaches working with players up to the age of 12 must follow the guidelines laid down by the RFU Rugby Continuum. CRB clearance is compulsory.
- Coaches working with players 13+ must be aware of the law variations, according to the RFU Rugby Continuum. CRB clearance is compulsory.
- Qualification at RFU 1st 4 Sport National NVQ Level 1 and above is mandatory for Mini Head Coaches. Assistant coaches will need to working towards this, or have also passed this award.
- Ensure players and parents behaviour is appropriate and in keeping with the spirit of the game and the expectations of the club