



Coaches Code of Conduct

Introduction:

Crusaders Rugby Union Football Club prides itself on providing a high quality, safe and fun environment for our players to learn and play Rugby Union. As Coaches (of whatever age group), the players, especially young players look up to you. They will be influenced by your behaviour and actions. Positive influences will carry forward into their game play, making them better stronger players, but importantly will influence them as people.

To that end Crusaders Rugby Club expects all coaches to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Respect and Equality:

- All rugby coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person with whom they work and treat them equally within the context of rugby union.
- Coaches must not behave in a way that discriminates against any player on the grounds of gender, race or disability. All rugby coaches must place the physical and emotional well-being of all players above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- Coaching Standards (age grade coaches):
- Coaches MUST comply with the RFU age grade regulations, and codes of practice. This includes following all processes (for example playing up / down an age grade).
- Coaches must recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating or coaching young players. Provide verbal feedback in a positive way during game.
- Explain decisions – most young players are still learning. The relationship that a rugby coach develops with the players with whom they work must be based on mutual trust and respect.
- Coaches are expected to undertake appropriate training to coach at their age group. This includes safeguarding training.

Lead by Example:

- It is illegal for young players under 18 to drink alcohol or smoke. You must take positive action to prevent this behaviour.
- Do not consume alcohol before you work with players, or whilst you are working with players. Do NOT drink any alcohol if you are transporting players to / from fixtures.
- Do not smoke when you are working with the players.
- All rugby coaches must encourage players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Do not tolerate verbal abuse or bad language from players or supporters to coaches, volunteers or spectators.

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- All coaches are expected to respect and show respect to all match officials at all times and encourage players to do the same. Any differences of opinion should be discussed constructively, after the game, and away from the players.

Safety:

- All rugby coaches must recognise that safety is paramount. Ensure that all equipment and facilities are safe and age appropriate, and adequate first aid provision is available. All rugby coaches must ensure that all activities undertaken are appropriate to the age, maturity, experience and ability of the young players.
- Coaches are advised NOT to intervene if players get into a physical conflict. Leave the situation to the referee. The ONLY time a physical intervention should be considered is when there is a clear, immediate threat to another players safety. Any force used MUST be “proportionate and reasonable”. The incident should be reported IMMEDIATELY to the Club (see below). You are advised to write down the circumstance as soon as possible
- NEVER play rugby with children. This includes holding tackle pads and touch rugby games.
- Do not allow a young player to continue playing if you have doubts about their safety. Discuss the situation with parents or the Club.

Tours:

- Coaches must ensure the Tour Guidance is followed including gaining the necessary permissions from the Constituent Body (Norfolk RFU) and the Club.
- It is recognised everyone wants to enjoy a tour including parents and coaches; however the safety of the Children is paramount. As a coach you need to remember you are in a position of responsibility;
- Make clear to parents / guardians when the children are “under your care” (e.g. playing games / at events etc.), and when they are under parental care and NOT your responsibility.
- Remember you are a role model to the players and consider this at all times.
- If touring without parents, contact the Club Safeguarding Team for specific advice.

Safeguarding:

- Do not shower with young players. Agree a timetable with the other coaches and opposition. Do not be alone with young players at any time. If a young player comes into the dressing room, ensure another adult is present. Do not change in the same area as young players.
- Do not make sexually explicit remarks to young players even in fun.
- Do not give a lift to a player unless there are other young people or adults in the car and the parents are aware. Do not take a young player to your home unless their parents are personally known to you.



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- Where mixed gender teams compete away from home, they should always be accompanied by at least one male and one female adult.
- Children must not be left unattended after training/matches and it is the coach's responsibility to contact parents should such a situation arise. Ensure you are not left alone with a young person in such circumstances.
- Coaches must familiarise yourself with Crusaders RUFC Safeguarding policy and know what to do should a situation arise.

Contacts

Role	Name	Contact
Club Safeguarding Officer	Jenna Keyes	jennakeyes@outlook.com
Club Chairperson	Justin Williams	justin.williams959@gmail.com
Club Secretary	Natalie Eccles	ecclesna.crusaders@gmail.com
Club Treasurer	Michaela Currums	m.currums@outlook.com
Club Discipline Secretary	David Williams	mcwill13@btinternet.com
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