



## Disciplinary Code

Chew Valley Rugby Football Club (CVRFC) is committed to providing a positive and safe environment in which children and young people can develop and practice their rugby skills. We are fortunate that the standards of behaviour and commitment shown by the players are generally good, but the Club is aware that the increasing size of the Mini and Junior Sections could bring with it a tendency towards unruly and, in some cases, dangerous behaviour from a small minority of children.

We are determined that any tendency towards poor behaviour should be stamped out before it leads to a fall in the standard of training or, much more importantly, a serious injury to one or more of our players. Rugby is a very safe game as long as the basic safety procedures as outlined by the R.F.U (and used by CVRFC during training) are observed, but as with any sporting activity there is a risk of serious injury if equipment is misused or if general behaviour is allowed to get out of hand.

This code is intended to clearly define the procedures that we at CVRFC will follow to counter any rise in disruptive and dangerous behaviour that may occur. This code is applicable at ANY event where children are in the care of, or are representing, CVRFC (i.e. summer and winter coaching sessions, both home and away matches, other organised events, e.g. Fun Days etc).

We appreciate that these measures may seem harsh to some of you, but please remember – it may be YOUR child that suffers from ABUSE or SERIOUS INJURY should disciplinary standards be permitted to fall. It is our aim to promote the game of Rugby, and to ensure that you and your child / children enjoy being members of our club – please help us to make sure that this aim is fulfilled.

The disciplinary code is based around the 'Yellow Card, Red Card' system that is used in rugby, football and other sports, and which is clearly understood by the majority of people, with the sanctions taken against members becoming increasingly severe should the disciplinary problem escalate.

### **FIRST WARNING**

To deal with minor breaches of discipline we will be using verbal warnings. Examples where a verbal warning would be issued include, but are not limited to, instances where -

- Children are seen to be talking when instructions are being given and hence are distracting other children in such a manner as to prevent them from taking full advantage of their training.

- Children are seen to be 'fiddling' with equipment in a manner not likely to cause injury to themselves or anyone else, but nonetheless causing a distraction to others.
- Children allow their concentration to wander during practice games to an extent that they are at risk of personal injury.

Parents will be informally notified of instances where verbal warnings have been issued. Should there be a need for more than 3 verbal warnings; a Yellow Card will be issued.

### **YELLOW CARD**

Should verbal warnings be insufficient to resolve the problem, or the breach of discipline be such as to warrant its use without prior warning, a Yellow Card will be issued. This will take the form of a verbal warning, followed by their exclusion from some or all of the session in progress. They will be asked to remain in an area where they can be observed and supervised until they are either permitted to rejoin the session, or they are collected by their parent.

The Coach of the child's group (or his nominated representative) will make an initial verbal approach to the child's parent to advise of the problem, and the Coach will follow up with written details of the events that occurred and actions to be taken. This would normally be a warning that further breaches of discipline would result in a Red Card being issued.

Typical incidents where a Yellow Card would be issued would include, but not be limited to, instances where a child is seen to be:

- Abusive to other children or coaches, or being noisily disruptive to the extent that the session has to be stopped while the offender is dealt with.
- Misusing equipment in a careless but unintentionally dangerous manner that is likely to cause injury to themselves or other children, or to cause damage to property (including the playing surface).
- Intentionally distracting another child during coaching activities or competitions to the extent that injury may be caused to either party.

### **RED CARD**

Should these sanctions prove inadequate, the Red Card will be used. This will result in the child being warned and immediately excluded from the session in progress. The Coach will then make a verbal approach to the child's parent, followed up with a written record of the events that led to the Red Card being issued. The issue of a Red Card would, other than in very exceptional circumstances, result in the child being asked to leave the club permanently, without refund of any membership fees that may have been paid.

A Red Card would normally be issued in the event of a repetition of behaviour that has previously invoked a Yellow Card. However the club reserves the right to issue a Red Card WITHOUT previous verbal or Yellow Card warnings should there be serious breaches of discipline, examples of which would include, but not be limited to, instances of:

- Racial abuse of another child or coach.
- Deliberate and intentional assault on another child or coach, with or without the use of equipment
- Deliberate actions intended to seriously damage or destroy property (including the playing surface)
- Bringing Chew Valley Rugby Football Club Ltd into disrepute with disrespectful or insulting behaviour towards opposition teams, supporters, match officials or behaviour likely to bring the club into disrepute in the local area
- Use or distribution of any form of drugs or any other form of prohibited substances.

### **INSTANCES OF QUERY OR DISPUTE**

The Club will always strive to show complete equality and fairness for all of its members in all respects. This includes instances of disciplinary problems, and should a club official find it necessary to invoke either repeated verbal warnings or card sanctions against a child, the club will ensure that the child's group Coach (or his nominated representative) is available to discuss the problem with the child's parent(s) if required.

In order to be fair to all parties, should a Red Card be issued the Club's Disciplinary Committee will sit to determine the final outcome. All those concerned will be invited to attend.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DISCIPLINARY CODE AND THE PROCEDURE DETAILED HEREWITH ALSO APPLIES TO ANY COACH, PARENT, SPECTATOR OR ANY OTHER PERSONS VISITING CHEW VALLEY RFC.