



Parents', Players' and Coaches' Codes

Parent's/Carer's Code

At its core, rugby is a physical game and a primary value is one of respect for one's opponents, team mates and officials. Fair play and sportsmanship are a fundamental part of the game which, for the vast majority, remains a sport played for enjoyment. Please take the time to read and understand the following points:-

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate. Remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment, and not that of their parents.
- Encourage your child to understand and play within the rules.
- Teach your child that taking part and trying your best are more important than winning. Focus on the young player's efforts rather than winning or losing.
- Be realistic about the young player's ability, and do not push them towards a level that they are not capable of achieving.
- Focus your child on practising their skills, sportsmanship and being part of a team. Winning isn't everything and not everyone can score the winning try.
- Support and encourage your child - never criticise them for making mistakes. Console them for losing, but encourage them to try harder next time.
- Provide positive feedback, both during training and during matches. Remember that persistent negative feedback may affect a player's attitude.
- Set an example for sportsmanship – always applaud good play by all young players both from our club and the opposition. Remember that young people learn by example.
- Always respect decisions made by the match officials (*they are also volunteers*) and encourage young players to do likewise.
- Never verbally abuse or publicly criticise young players, match officials, fellow spectators, or any of the coaches; - there is no place for 'touchline rage' in rugby.
The abuse of match officials will not be tolerated by Chew Valley RFC.
- NEVER enter the playing arena (the pitch) before, during or after a game EXCEPT at the invitation of the referee. This applies to all parents and spectators.

- Support the club in its efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game, and to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sport. Report anything untoward to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Chairman.
- Help the club function properly by turning up on time with the appropriate kit. This should include plenty of warm and wet weather clothing, as appropriate for the child in your care. Ensure your child has a drink with them. **Be prepared to get involved and help out if asked.**
- Please note that your child **must be accompanied** at all times by yourself or a designated guardian. Coaches are only responsible for players within the immediate playing / training area for the duration of the playing / training session. They cannot be held responsible for the safe keeping of an individual at any other time.
- Support your coaches - they are giving up their time to train your child. If you have any issues with the way a coach is performing, talk to them first. Refer any issues to an Officer of the Club if you remain concerned.
- *"Be a proud parent not a loud one"* ALL PARENTS ARE POSITIVELY ENCOURAGED TO COMPLY WITH THIS CODE OF CONDUCT. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE VIEWED CRITICALLY BY THE CLUB AND COULD LEAD TO THE INSTIGATION OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.
- NOTE : **Medical or Other Conditions** - Parents / Carers **must** notify the coaches of any medical condition or illness that may affect a player, e.g. asthma, diabetes, hay fever, attention deficit disorder, epilepsy, etc. Please ensure that you bring any medication that a player may have been prescribed such as asthma inhaler, hay fever medicine, etc.

Player's Code

- Play to enjoy rugby - always try your best to improve your skills and play well.
- Play within the rules and laws of the game.
- Never argue with referees or coaches - their decision is final, *(even if you think that they are wrong)*
- Do not talk when the coach or referee is talking. Make sure you listen to the coach / referee so that you know what to do next.
- Rugby is a team game - do your best for your team mates and don't try to grab all the glory for yourself.
- Don't show off, lose your temper, pick on other players or generally misbehave - it's not part of rugby.
- If you lose, accept it with good grace and try harder next time.
- Respect good play - from opponents and your own team.
- Help team mates, opponents, coaches and officials - you can't play rugby on your own.

Parents are asked to ensure that their child understands and abides by the above points.

Coach's Code

Set out below is what you can expect from the coach of your section:

- Young players will not be overloaded with demands, technical information and tactics – coaches are mindful that they are coaching children and they are playing rugby for fun.
- The better players will not be over-played – everyone will be included.
- Players develop at different times and in different ways - allowances will be made for their physical, emotional and mental maturity and development.
- Winning isn't everything - players will be taught to enjoy taking part and performing to the best of their ability. Coaches will encourage each player to reach his or her potential.
- Coaches will not abuse, shout, criticise or ridicule children for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Coaches will be organised – they will establish a structure for the season, prepare a coaching plan for each session, have the appropriate kit. Above all, they will communicate to players, parents and fellow coaches to set expectations.
- Coaches will ensure players develop an understanding of the rules and laws of the game, that they respect opponents, team mates, coaches and officials.
- Coaches will never question an official's judgement or honesty.
- Coaches have a responsibility to ensure that players and parents' behaviour is appropriate and in keeping with the spirit of the game and the expectations of the Club. Please help them by abiding by the Code of Conduct set out herewith.
- Coaches will not enter the playing arena (the pitch) during a match unless specifically invited to do so by the match official.

Abuse of Match Officials - Specific Code of Conduct

All clubs have a responsibility for the behaviour of their members, players, coaches and regular supporters towards Match Officials and are expected to take all reasonable steps to protect Match Officials from any form of abuse.

The Committee of Chew Valley Rugby Football Club Limited takes this responsibility very seriously, and expects full co-operation from all parties at any fixture played at Chew Valley or elsewhere. In this respect, the Club has signed up to the I.R.B. Code of Conduct.

Abuse of Match Officials is defined as: Individual perception of personal degradation, be it mental or physical, before, during and after the match, including (but not limited to):

- Verbal or physical assault
- Intimidatory conduct
- Racial or sexual harassment

All spectators will be required to remain behind permanent or temporary barriers at all times during a match wherever possible. If barriers are not erected then they must not enter the playing arena (the pitch). Replacements, coaches, medics and water carriers must comply with the game's regulations as to the areas they are restricted to during a match. They must not enter the playing arena (the pitch) unless specifically invited to do so by the match official. All members and regular supporters are urged to comply with the requirements of this Code of Conduct so as to preserve the good reputation of the Club.

Note: This Code of Conduct is also displayed on the Clubhouse notice-board.