

ILKESTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

SENIOR SECTION



SENIOR SECTION RULES AND CODES OF CONDUCT

CONSTITUTION OF ILKESTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

NAME AND OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

The name shall be 'Ilkeston Rugby Union Football Club'. The objects of the Club shall be to develop, encourage and provide facilities for playing Rugby Football and sport in general in the Gallows Inn Playing Fields area, and to promote fellowship between members and between members and visiting teams.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone regardless of sex, age, disability ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

There shall be four classes of Membership, namely, Playing Members, Non-Playing Members, Honorary Members and Life Members.

Ordinary Membership

Candidates for Playing or Non-Playing Membership shall apply to the Secretary who will cause the application to be brought before the Executive Committee. All applicants for Membership must be proposed and seconded in writing by existing Members of the Club. The Executive Committee may elect or reject any candidates as they agree by simple majority. Refusal of membership shall be only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute.

Life Membership

Life Membership shall be awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee. A Life Member shall have all the rights and privileges of an Ordinary Member.

Honorary Membership

- a) The Executive Committee may elect any person as an Honorary Member of the Club.
- b) Any member of a team playing in an organised game against the Club, and not more than 20 other persons in aggregate accompanying such members, shall, unless the Executive Committee determine otherwise, be Honorary Members of the Club for the day on which such game takes place.

Persons may not be admitted to Membership or be admitted as candidates to membership or to any of the privileges of Membership without an interlude of at least 2 days between their nomination and application for Membership and admission. This applies to all aspects of Membership listed above.

Note (Vice Presidents shall have the rights, privileges and duties of Non-Playing Members)

Membership Cards etc

A membership card and a copy of the Constitution of the Club shall be supplied to every Member. Members must produce their membership cards when on Club premises at the request of any officer, member of the Executive Committee, or Steward of the Club.

Cessation of Membership

- a) A Member may resign from the Club by giving not less than one month's written notice to the Secretary, and at the same time enclosing his membership card.
- b) Life Membership or Honorary Membership may be terminated at any time be the Executive Committee.
- c) Cessation or resignation of membership shall not absolve any Member from liability of any subscription, charge or any other payment due from him.

Suspension and Expulsion

- a) Any Member who is not less than 4 weeks in arrears with his subscription may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee be suspended until such arrears have been paid.

- b) The Executive Committee may expel any member who shall offend against any of the rules or byelaws of the Club, or for other good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Removal by the Executive Committee shall be subject to a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Before any member is expelled he shall be given 14 days written notice to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, such notice giving particulars of the complaints made against him.

Visitors

Subject to any bye-laws, a member shall be entitled to introduce visitors to the Club, however the maximum number of visitors introduced shall not exceed three on any occasion. Members introducing visitors shall enter the name and address of the visitor, together with his own name, in a book which shall be kept for that purpose on Club premises. Members introducing visitors shall be responsible for the good conduct and observance of this Constitution and bye-laws of the Club by the visitors. No visitor shall be permitted to make a purchase on Club premises.

FINANCIAL

Subscriptions

The Annual subscriptions and Match Tax shall be determined by general meeting. The Executive Committee shall have the power to waive or allow a lesser subscription to be paid by a Member. Subscriptions must be paid by Members by 1st November each year to the Treasurer of the Club.

Drawing of Cheques

Every cheque drawn on the Club shall be signed by the Honorary Treasurer.

Audit

An Honorary Auditor shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to audit the accounts for the following year.

Assets of the Club

All property of the Club, other than cash which shall be under the control of the Treasurer, shall be vested in not more than four or less than two Trustees who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall hold office until death or resignation or removal from office by a Resolution of the Executive Committee. They shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of Club property, and will deal with the property of the Club as directed by Resolution of the Executive Committee. The Club is a non-profit making association. The property and funds of the Club cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of members other than as reasonably allowed by the Rules and all surplus income or profits are reinvested in the Club. This does not prevent donations by the Club to Charities or to other clubs that are registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

Loans

If at any time the Club in General Meeting shall pass a resolution authorising the Executive Committee to borrow money the Executive Committee shall thereupon be empowered to borrow for the purposes of the Club such amount of money at such rate of interest and in such manner as shall be specified in such Resolution and the Executive Committee may issue Mortgages or Charges and may thereby charge all or any of the property and funds of the Club with payment of the amount so borrowed and interest thereon. All members of the Club whether voting on such Resolution or not and all persons becoming Members of the Club after the passing of such Resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of such Resolution.

MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of May in each year for the presentation and passing of the accounts for the financial year ended on 31st March, the election of officers and Executive Committee, the election of an Auditor and any other business which shall have been communicated to the Secretary and included in the notice of the meeting sent by him to the members.

Extraordinary General Meeting

Extraordinary General Meetings of the Club may be convened at any time by the Executive Committee and shall be convened within 21 days on the request in writing to the Secretary of not less than 12 ordinary Members, stating the purpose for which such a meeting is required.

General Meeting

- a) At least 7 days notice of a general meeting shall be sent to every Member of the Club at his address as shown on the Club Register, stating the time and place where such meeting will be held and the business to be transacted thereat.
- b) The business of the general meeting shall be limited to that provided by these Rules and any further matters specified in the notice convening the meeting.

Voting

At all General Meetings of the Club the President, or in his absence a member selected by the Executive Committee, shall take the chair. Every ordinary Member present shall be entitled to one vote upon every motion, and in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall not have a second or casting vote. (The Executive Committee shall be empowered, if they think fit, to make regulations for enabling members unable to be present to vote by proxy or in writing).

MANAGEMENT

President

- a) The President shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. He shall hold office for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- b) He will be an ex-officio member of all Committees and Subcommittees.

Vice Presidents

Vice Presidents of the Club shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. They shall hold office for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

Officers

The officers of the Club shall consist of a Chairman, Club Captain, Secretary and Treasurer.

Management

The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee which, in this Constitution, shall be referred to as the 'Executive Committee'.

The officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at every Annual General meeting and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting following which they were elected.

Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than eight persons, four of whom, the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Football Chairman, shall be ex-officio Members.
- b) The Executive Committee will delegate specific responsibilities to the Football Committee.
- c) At any Meeting of the Executive Committee, five shall be a quorum.
- d) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall take place when required.
- e) The Executive Committee may appoint any such other Subcommittee as they think fit and for such purposes as they may determine.
- f) The Executive Committee shall have power to make such Bye-Laws as they shall think expedient for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Club. All such Bye-Laws shall be binding upon the Members of the Club until repealed by the Executive Committee or set aside by Resolution of a General Meeting of the Club. All such Bye-Laws shall be exhibited on a Notice Board on the Club Premises.

Note (it is envisaged that the functions of the Executive Committee will be:

- To formulate policy and ensure that the policy is extended
- To delegate specific responsibility to Committees and individuals
- To co-ordinate all Club activities
- To exercise the administrative, financial and legal controls necessary for the Club's efficient operation).

Football Committee

- a) The Football Committee shall consist of the Club Captain, Match Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Team Captains, together a First XV Vice Captain and one other Member to be appointed by the Football Committee.
- b) The Club Captain shall be Chairman.
- c) The Football Committee will delegate the responsibility for selection of teams to a Subcommittee which shall be determined by the Football Committee at the beginning of each Season.

- d) The Match Secretary will be required to act as Recorder for this Committee. He will ensure under the direction of the Club Secretary and Treasurer that accurate records of meetings are kept.
- e) At any meeting of the Football Committee, the Chairman, Match Secretary and two other members shall be a quorum.
- f) The Committee shall meet at least once during the first two weeks of each calendar month during the playing season.

Note (it is envisaged that the functions of the Football Committee will be:

- To establish and maintain a fixture list in accordance with the policy laid down by the Executive Committee
- To ensure that players, equipment, referees, transport, refreshments and records are available to fulfil the commitments of the fixture list.
- To ensure that all cancellations and alterations to the list are communicated to the appropriate persons.
- To provide training and coaching facilities for all members.
- To execute the administrative, financial and legal controls required by the Executive Committee.
- To ensure that provision is made for the introduction and coaching of players including the appointment of a Club Coach.)

Election

- a) Any Member of the Club shall be eligible for Membership of any committee, providing they have paid the previous year's subscription. The same qualification shall apply to Members eligible to vote. All officials and Committee Member shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.
- b) All nominations, in writing, must be received by the Secretary not later than fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Any vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by Resolution of the Executive Committee. Any person so elected shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

Resignation of Executive Committee

Any Officer or member of the Executive Committee may resign by giving not less than one month's notice to the Secretary. Any vacancy occurring amongst the Officers or members of the Executive Committee may be filled by the Executive Committee. Any person so elected shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and then shall be eligible for re-election.

The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a register of the names and addresses of all Members, call meetings, keep correct Minutes of the proceedings at all meetings of the Club and the Executive Committee, conduct the correspondence, be responsible for the books and papers appertaining to his office and perform such other duties in connection with the affairs of the Club as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and on the authority of the Executive Committee dispose of all monies due to or from the Club, shall prepare a financial statement and shall be responsible for the books appertaining to his office.

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Club Hours

The Clubhouse should be opened to Members daily between such hours as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine; but the Executive Committee may close it for such times as they deem necessary for cleaning, repairs, or other purposes.

Amendment to Constitution

No alteration of, deletion from or addition to this Constitution shall be made, except by a Resolution carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the Members present and voting at a General Meeting, notice of which shall have contained particulars of the proposed alteration, deletion or addition. Amendments may not be made to this Constitution so as to jeopardise the Club's status as a Community Amateur Sports Club as first provided for by the Finance Act 2002.

Written notice of any proposed amendments also must be sent to the Clerk to the Justices for the notification to and approval by the Justices. No amendment or addition to the Constitution shall become operative until the approval of the Justices has been so obtained.

Written notice of any amendment of the Constitution must be given by the Secretary to the Police, the Local Authority and also the Clerk of the Justices within 28 days of finalisation of the amendment.

Dissolution

If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club, of which notice has been duly given, shall be passed by majority of at least three quarters of the Members present and voting, the Executive Committee shall thereupon or at such future date as shall be specified in such Resolution proceed to realise the property of the Club, and after the discharge of liabilities, shall apply the same in such manner as the Executive Committee may by Resolution determine to one or more of the following:

- a) another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered charity and/or
 - b) another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC and/or
 - c) the Clubs governing body for use by them for related community sports,
- and upon completion of such application the Club shall be dissolved.

Interpretation

Any question arising as to the meaning of any of these Rules and any Rule or Bye-Law made thereunder, or as to application or effect of any such Rule or Bye-Law, shall be determined by the Executive Committee, whose determination shall be final and binding.

Interpretation of all the Rules must be consistent with the statutory requirements for Community Amateur Sports Clubs as first provided for by the Finance Act 2002

THE GOOD PLAYER'S CODE

PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, match officials and administrators in providing the opportunity for you to play the game and enjoy the rugby environment.
- Understand the values of loyalty and commitment to adults and team mates.
- Recognise that every young player has a right to expect their involvement in rugby to be safe and free from all types of abuse.
- Understand that if an individual or group of young players feel they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, then you have a right to tell an adult either at the rugby club or outside of the game.

PLAYERS SHOULD:

- Play because you want to do so, not to please coaches or parents.
- Remember that skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important parts of the game.
- Be attentive at all training and coaching sessions.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team - both will then benefit.
- Recognise good play by all players on your team and by your opponents.
- Be a sportsman - win or lose.
- Play to the Laws of the Game and accept, without question, all referees' decisions.
- Control your emotions. Verbal or physical abuse of team mates, opponents, or match officials is not acceptable.
- Treat all players, as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take advantage of any player.

THE GOOD SPECTATOR'S CODE

SPECTATORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Act as positive role models to all young players.
- Be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.
- Respect the rugby club with regard to spectator behaviour.

SPECTATORS SHOULD:

- Remember children play sport for their enjoyment not yours.
- Acknowledge good individual and team performance from all youngsters irrespective of the team for whom they play.
- Respect match officials' decisions. Remember - they are volunteers providing an opportunity for youngsters to play rugby.
- Never verbally abuse young players, match officials, fellow spectators or coaches. Such behaviour can create a negative environment for young players and their behaviour will often reflect this.
- Acknowledge effort and good performance rather than the 'win at all costs' ethic.
- Verbally encourage all youngsters in a positive way. If you do want to shout make sure it is 'for', not 'at' the players.
- Encourage all youngsters irrespective of their ability - never ridicule any individual player, regardless of the team for whom they play.

THE GOOD MATCH OFFICIAL'S CODE

MATCH OFFICIALS SHOULD:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players.
- Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner during games.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game.
- Appreciate the needs of the young players before the needs of the sport.
- Understand the physical, social and psychological development of young players.
- Be a positive role model. You set an example, and as such, comments you receive should be positive and supportive.
- Look to self-improvement e.g. participation in Mini/Midi or National 15-a-side courses.

MATCH OFFICIALS MUST:

- Recognise that the safety of young players is paramount.
- Explain decisions - all young players are still learning.
- Always penalise foul play.
- Play advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow.
- Show empathy for the age and ability of young players.
- Be consistent and objective.
- Ensure that verbal abuse from players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated and is dealt with by club officials immediately.
- Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.

REMEMBER:

OFFICIALS WORKING WITH YOUNG PLAYERS UP TO THE AGE OF 12 MUST OFFICIATE TO THE RULES LAID DOWN IN THE RFU RUGBY CONTINUUM, AND MUST KEEP THEMSELVES UPDATED ON RULES CHANGES.

OFFICIALS WORKING WITH YOUNG PLAYERS AGED 13+ MUST OFFICIATE ACCORDING TO THE UNDER-15 AND UNDER-19 LAW VARIATIONS AND KEEP THEMSELVES UPDATED ON RELEVANT CHANGES.

THE GOOD PARENT'S CODE

PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Be familiar with the coaching and training programme in order that you can ensure that your child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their availability.
- Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing the sessions in which your child participates.
- Be aware that the club has a duty of care and therefore, where appropriate, assist coaches with the supervision of the young players, particularly where numbers are large and there is a need to transport youngsters to away games.
- Be involved with club activities and share your expertise.
- Share concerns, if you have them, with club officials.
- Be familiar with the Good Coaches Code. In particular:
- Coaches should recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching young players.
- Coaches should keep winning and losing in perspective, encouraging young players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- It is important that parents support coaches in instilling these virtues.

PARENTS SHOULD:

- Remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment not that of their parents.
- Encourage young people to play - do not force them.
- Focus on the young players' efforts, rather than winning or losing.
- Be realistic about the young players' abilities; do not push them towards a level that they are not capable of achieving.
- Provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
- Remember that persistent, negative messages will adversely affect the players' and referee's performance and attitude.
- Always support the rugby club in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
- Remember young people learn much by example.
- Always show appreciation of good play by all young players both from your own club and the opposition.
- Respect decisions made by the match officials and encourage the young players to do likewise.

THE GOOD COACHES CODE

IN RUGBY UNION, COACHES OF YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching young players. Most learning is achieved through doing.
- Appreciate the needs of the players before the needs of the sport.
- Be a positive role model - think what this implies.
- Keep winning and losing in perspective - encourage young players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- Respect all referees and the decisions they make (remember it could be you refereeing next week) and ensure that the players recognise that they must do the same.
- Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner, to all young players, both during coaching sessions and games.

IN RUGBY UNION, COACHES OF YOUNG PLAYERS MUST

- Provide experiences, which are matched to the young players' ages and abilities, as well as their physical and mental development.
- Ensure all youngsters are coached in a safe environment, with adequate first aid readily to hand.
- Avoid the overplaying of the best players, by using a squad system, which gives everybody a satisfactory amount of playing time.
- Never allow a player to train or play when injured.
- Ensure good supervision of young players, both on and off the field.
- Recognise that young players should never be exposed to extremes of heat, cold, or unacceptable risk of injury.
- Develop an awareness of nutrition as part of an overall education in lifestyle management.
- Recognise that it is illegal for young players under 18 to drink alcohol.
- Ensure that their knowledge and coaching strategies are up to date and in line with RFU philosophy.
- Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU recommended procedures for taking young people on residential tours at home and abroad.
- Be aware of, and abide by, the policies and procedures outlined in the RFU Child Protection Guidance Booklet.

REMEMBER:

COACHES WORKING WITH YOUNG PLAYERS UP TO THE AGE OF 12 MUST FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY RFU RUGBY CONTINUUM.

COACHES WORKING WITH YOUNG PLAYERS AGED 13+ MUST BE AWARE OF THE UNDER-15 AND UNDER-19 LAW VARIATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT APPLY TO CROSS BORDER MATCHES