



## Coaches' Code of Conduct

Any coach working with young players within Heathfield & Waldron Rugby Football Club is part of a structure which has many stakeholders, and as such he/she has responsibilities to all of them.

This code has been written to remind or inform coaches of those responsibilities and the minimum standards of behaviour commensurate with fulfilling them. Each season every coach active in a section will be called on to warrant that they have read, understood *and intend to abide by* this code.

1. Rugby is only part of players' lives. Recognise this and allow for it in your demands on them.
2. Treat games against other clubs as lessons, opportunities to learn, not tests.
3. Rugby is for everyone. H&WRFC is for everyone. Do not rely on 'star' players and never make any player feel like a 'spare part'. Share game time and your time in practice sessions equally.
4. Never ridicule any player. Never belittle any player. Always make every player feel valued.
5. Find out what makes each player tick. Know about their family background and their other interests. Be able to spot and then explain changes in their behaviour.
6. Find out the facts about child development amid the physical, intellectual and emotional capabilities of the age group you work with.
7. Rugby is a potentially dangerous game which relies on every participant playing it in a spirit of mutual respect. Teach the players you work with the meaning of "fair play" and set them a good example.
8. Rugby works best when sides are evenly matched. Insist on mixing and matching ill matched teams.
9. Understand the Continuum and abide by it, to the letter. You have no option. The Continuum is part of the Laws of the Game (Minis U7-U12).
10. Learn the Laws and learn to referee (ALL Mini & Junior Coaches).
11. Teach players by your own example, to respect the referee, Always!
12. Always look like a coach, always act like a coach
  - Start on time and finish on time.
  - Plan your session.
13. To be a good coach, you need up to date information on coaching/rugby issues. Stay in touch.
14. You are responsible for the safety of the players you work with.
15. Mark out a safe area. Make sure equipment is in good repair.
16. Never join in contact drills and games. YOU'RE TOO BIG!
17. Do not put yourself in a position where you could be suspected of, or accused of, physical or sexual abuse of any child associated with the club.
18. Use a separate changing room from players, never be alone with individuals behind closed doors, and NEVER "get in the shower with the boys".
19. Tell players and keep telling yourself that winning and losing are only by-products of performance. We are there to play and enjoy, nothing more.

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