



ROYSTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

The Heath Sports Centre | Baldock Road | Royston | Herts | SG8 5BG

www.roystonrugbyclub.co.uk

3rd February 2020

To all Parents and Players in the Mini and Youth section

Standards of Behaviour and Values of Rugby

Dear Players, Parents and Coaches,

The behaviour of our club members is generally excellent and many of you lead the way in setting the example of a great rugby culture. However, As Mini and youth chairman I have had to deal with incidents of foul and/or violent behaviour this season. These incidents, whilst being different in their nature and impact have caused me to reflect on what we are trying to achieve in rugby, the values we are trying to promote and the messages I can share to promote a positive culture.

I will not refer directly to the incidents, some of you will be aware of the details and also be aware that we have dealt with such issues in the strongest possible way, in conjunction with Hertfordshire RFU. In this communication I want to focus on the key learning points and share with you the key contact details and process for dealing with any future issues.

The first message is clear and should be obvious to everyone, under NO circumstances is the use of physical violence, no matter what mitigating circumstances, ever excused by the club. The club operates a disciplinary process as per our constitution and all instances of violent behaviour will be referred to our disciplinary officer.

Vocal criticism of the referee has also been reported by our own and opposition parents. Referees give up their time to enable us to play our game. No matter what their decisions, they are always right. If any parent chooses to question a referee's decision, they will do so privately via their relevant coaching staff. All coaches and club officials are empowered to politely suggest that overly agitated parents should go and get themselves a coffee and calm down. Knowing many parents, I am sure that this is understood.

On occasion, we may see poor behaviour from opposition coaches, supporters or players. Our club officials are empowered to politely challenge such behaviour. The aim is to deescalate situations and focus on everyone's enjoyment of the game.

In the event of any serious breaches of TREDs*, these should be reported to M+Y Chairman (Niall Tallis), Director of Rugby (Jamie Green) or Safeguarding Officer (Joanne Dawson) as appropriate. We will always back our members when they positively and politely challenge poor behaviour and seek to promote a positive rugby culture.

Thank you for playing rugby at Royston, we count upon your support to make the environment enjoyable for all. If you have any queries about this letter, please drop me a line on the email below.

Regards,

Niall Tallis
Mini and Youth Chairman

Useful contacts:
Mini and youth chairman youth@roystonrugbyclub.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer Safeguarding@roystonrugbyclub.co.uk

*TREDs are rugby's core values

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP