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**PARENT & PLAYER CHARTER**

Rugby is a hard and physical game, and consequently relies on respect, both on and off the pitch. Rugby's **CORE VALUES** are summed up with the following: -

**TEAMWORK    RESPECT    ENJOYMENT    DISCIPLINE    SPORTSMANSHIP**

❖ **Play to enjoy – but not to win at all costs.**

**Win with dignity, lose with grace.**

**Observe the Laws of the game.**

**Respect Opponents and Referees, both on and off the pitch.**

**Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs.**

**Value and respect all volunteers, both on and off the pitch, and whether members of our own, or opposition clubs.**

- It is important that the basic tenets of the game, those of friendship, good manners, acknowledgement of authority and a willingness to play within the laws of the game are acknowledged by all players and spectators. It is vital that we continue maintain those behavioural standards, discipline and courtesy (both on and off the pitch) that make the game so great.
- Foul and abusive language, swearing, name calling, racist comments, "sledging" etc have no place in the game, no matter the provocation, whether by players, coaches or spectators on the touchline; these are specifically outlawed in the laws of the game, and could attract yellow or even red cards and result in formal disciplinary sanctions. You are reminded that any remarks perceived as racist will be brought to the attention of the club's disciplinary group – and offenders can expect the most serious sanctions.
- Players are reminded that they **MUST NOT** retaliate to any perceived physical provocation.  
All physical contact **MUST** be within the laws of the game.
- Spectators **MUST** remain off the playing enclosure, and certainly at least 2 metres from the touchline, and behind any barrier or fence that is provided. Spectators **MUST NOT** become involved in any physical contact with players, or altercation involving players, whatever the cause. No Parent or Spectator should enter the field of play for any reason, without the knowledge and permission of the referee - not even to break up a fight.
- Referees.  
It is important to recognise that Referees are Volunteers, who give of their time willingly, and (at our level of the game) without any financial reward. They all make mistakes, and may have different interpretations of the laws, or indeed may vary in the art of refereeing the game. Some may not be of the calibre that the game requires. They should not be castigated for any perceived or actual deficiency. Parents and Spectators should be positive role models to all; they should respect the authority of all referees, and respect their decisions, and encourage others to do so. It is totally inappropriate for any spectator to criticise or shout at a referee, either during or after the game; comments perceived by a referee to be abuse may be referred to Eastern Counties Discipline Committee, who will deal with such matters robustly – offenders should expect very serious sanctions.