



# **CODE OF CONDUCT**

***(PLAYERS, COACHES, SPECTATORS & REFEREES)***



# **WATERPARK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **Code of Conduct**

### **PLAYERS**

- Play for enjoyment and become part of the rugby family.
- Respect the "Game of Rugby" and play within the Laws of the Game.
- Accept the decision of the referee or touch judge and let your captain or coach ask any relevant questions.
- Play with control. Do not lose your temper.
- Always do your best and be committed to the game, your team and your club.
- Be a "good sport". Applaud all good play whether by your team or the opposition.
- Respect your opponent. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not "bully" or take advantage of any player.
- Rugby is a team sport and make sure you co-operate with your coach; team mates and members of your club.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
- At the end of the match thank your opponents, the referee and the touch judges for the match.
- Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Tackle hard but fairly, do not intend to hurt your opponent.
- Winning and losing is part of sport: Win with humility - Lose with dignity.
- As part of the team it is important that you attend training regularly and listen to your coach and help your team.
- As a team sport it is important to understand that all members are important to the team!
- Remember you are representing your team, club, family and the Game of Rugby.



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### COACHES & MANAGERS

- Lead by example - people need a coach whom they respect.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a match.
- Teach your players that the Laws of the Game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Ensure that all players participate in matches. The "average" players require and deserve equal time.
- Remember that many players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill learning and playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition. ***Winning is not the only objective.***
- Develop player and team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgement of referees and opposing coaches.
- Insist on fair play and disciplined play. Do not tolerate foul play, fighting or foul language. Be prepared to take off an offending player.
- Encourage players to develop basic skills and sportsmanship.
- Set realistic goals for the team and individual players.
- Create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to train and play.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and methods.
- Never criticise the referee or touch judges during or after a match in front of players or spectators.
- Always thank the match officials and if they have made decisions which require clarification, discuss the problems after everyone has changed.
- In the event of a player receiving a head injury ensure he/she is immediately substituted and does not return to the field for the rest of the day, unless approved in person by a doctor.
- Seek and follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Ensure that proper equipment and facilities are available at all times.
- Be responsible and ensure you uphold the ethos of the game and the IRFU.
- Attend coaching courses.
- Support the Code of Ethics.
- Ensure you and your players are proud of your team, club and efforts during the season.



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### **REFEREES**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player and treat everyone equally, regardless of gender, disability, ethnic origin, religion, etc.
- All referees must be a member of a Branch Referees Association.
- Act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of rugby and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct.
- Be responsible for monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with players.
- Never deal with injuries unless qualified to do so.
- Encourage coaches to act responsibly and to be responsible for the behaviour and performance of players.
- Ensure that safety is paramount in all games. In the event of a player receiving a head injury ensure he/she is immediately substituted and does not return to the field for the rest of the day, unless approved in person by a doctor. Use your powers under Law 3.9 if necessary.
- Follow agreed protocols regarding shower arrangements after matches.
- Agree appropriate times for entry to changing rooms to deal with match preparation and ensure members of the team management are present.
- Be punctual, prepared and well presented.
- Ensure players and officials comply with the Laws of the Game.
- Never criticise individual players and/or coaches or parents.
- Adhere to all rules and procedures as agreed by the Branch Referees Association
- At the end of the match congratulate both teams and their coaches and thank your touch judges for their assistance



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# **SPECTATORS**

- Remember, people play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours.
- Remember honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from rugby.
- As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, touch judges, coaches or players.
- Do not publicly question the judgement of the referee or touch judges and never question their honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees, touch judges and coaches.
- Identify and acknowledge the good qualities of the Game of Rugby and uphold these values.
- Remember your contribution to the Game of Rugby is very important to the IRFU and be proud of your contribution.
- Understand the value of team sport and the importance thereof.