

## Codes of Conduct



### Age-Grade 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 referee's decision 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; teammates 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 and the referee 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.

### Parents

- Remember, Age-Grade Players play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours.
- Encourage your child always to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Teach Age-Grade Players that honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Help Age-Grade Players to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at Age-Grade Players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in the playing of rugby. If the child is to play, he/she will do so in good time through your encouragement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal & physical abuse from rugby.
- As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or Age-Grade Players.
- Do not publicly question the referee's judgement and never their honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.
- Identify and acknowledge the good qualities of the Game of Rugby and uphold these values.
- Remember you and your child's 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 its importance.

## **Spectators**

- Remember that although Age-Grade Players play organised rugby they are not 'miniature internationals'.
- Be on your best behaviour and lead by example. Do not use profane language or harass referees, players or coaches.
- Applaud good play by the visiting team as well as your own.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would not be a match.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms at every opportunity.
- Verbal abuse of Age-Grade Players or Sports Leaders cannot be accepted in any shape of form.
- Age-Grade Players or Sports Leaders are not fair targets for ignorant behaviour.
- Encourage Age-Grade Player to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Spectators can contribute to the enjoyment of the event and all involved.
- Be proud of your club and the Game of Rugby.

## **Additional Information for Sports Leaders**

- Remember that as a Sports Leader of an 'Age-Grade team' you are acting 'in loco parentis' and that you have a duty of care to all your Age-Grade Players.
- Always follow professional medical advice in determining when an injured Age-Grade Player is ready to play again.
- Adhere to policies for your club / team to agree procedures regarding discipline, injury prevention & treatment, team selection etc.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the Age-Grade Players' time, energy and enthusiasm.