



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

This Code of Conduct is to be read in conjunction with Codes of Conduct issued by the IRB, ARU and QRU.

### **INTRODUCTION**

This code is designed

- To keep the element of enjoyment and satisfaction in Rugby.
- To make adults aware that people play for personal enjoyment and not necessarily to satisfy adults or members of their own peer group.
- To improve the physical fitness of participants by making the game attractive, safe and enjoyable for all players.
- To constantly remind Administrators, Coaches, Officials, Guardians/Parents, that Rugby must be administered, taught and provided, for the good of those participants who wish to play the game. It is their game.
- **REMEMBER – “IT IS POSITIVE OR POINTLESS”**

### **PLAYER'S CODE**

- ☐ Play for the ‘enjoyment’, not just to please your parents, friends or coach.
- ☐ Never argue with the referee’s decisions. Let your captain or coach ask any necessary questions.
- ☐ Control your temper – no ‘mouthing off’ or “baiting” the opposition players.
- ☐ Work equally hard for yourself and your team – your team’s performance will benefit and so will your own,
- ☐ Be a good sport. Applaud all good play, whether by your team or by your opponent.
- ☐ Treat all players, as you yourself would like to be treated. Don’t interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- ☐ Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- ☐ Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- ☐ Co-operate with your coach, teammates, referee and opponents, for without them you don’t have a game.
- ☐ Do not arrive at the venue or play rugby while intoxicated or under the influence of banned substances
- ☐ Thank the opposition and officials at the end of the game

## **COACH'S CODE**

- ☐ You have responsibility for your team and its supporters. EXERCISE IT.
- ☐ Be reasonable in your demands on player's time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests and demands on their time.
- ☐ Teach your players that laws of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
- ☐ Ensure that all players have an opportunity to participate. The 'just average' players need and deserve meaningful playing time.
- ☐ Remember that younger players play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the players for making mistakes or losing a game.
- ☐ The scheduling and length of practice times and games should take into consideration the maturity and age level of the players.
- ☐ Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- ☐ Follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- ☐ Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of players.
- ☐ Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship, just as you would in teaching the basic skills.
- ☐ Ensure that efforts for both skill improvement and good sportsmanship are rewarded by praise.
- ☐ INSIST ON FAIR PLAY, do not tolerate foul play, fighting, or foul language. Be prepared to take off an offending player.
- ☐ Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of players
- ☐ Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport including opponents, referees, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. I will encourage my players to do the same.
- ☐ Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game regardless of their gender, ability, or cultural background
- ☐ Do not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol during or before matches or training
- ☐ Do not allow the unlawful supply of alcohol at training, games or club functions

## **MANAGER'S CODE**

- ☐ Encourage parents to take an active interest in the Team.
- ☐ Encourage parents and supporters to talk to opposition spectators.
- ☐ Encourage supporters to praise good play by both teams.
- ☐ Discourage supporters from excessive barracking.
- ☐ Provide administrative assistance to the Coach.
- ☐ Be fully informed of Rugby requirements and matters affecting your team.
- ☐ Look after injured players.
- ☐ Ensure that players are aware of representative trials and if selected, they are fully aware of their commitments and that they know of their selection.
- ☐ Check eligibility of players for your team and adhere to the Competition Rules.
- ☐ If a member of the team is ordered off by the referee, see that player attends the judicial committee meeting as required and accompany him to the meeting, if required.
- ☐ Registration of players in accordance with the Competition Rules.
- ☐ Make sure players, parents and officials are informed of all functions, social and otherwise.
- ☐ Attend coaching and other meetings where coach is unable to attend.
- ☐ Insist on an appropriate standard of team behavior both on and off the pitch.

-  Set an example in terms of behavior.
-  Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport including opponents, referees, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. I will encourage my players to do the same.
-  Do not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol during or before matches or training.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE**

-  Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in Rugby are made available to all irrespective of ability.
-  Do not allow the game to become primarily spectator entertainment.
-  Equipment and facilities must be appropriate to the maturity level of the young players.
-  Rules and length of schedules should take into consideration the age and maturity level of the young players.
-  Distribute the Code of Conduct to spectators, coaches, players, referees, parents/guardians and teachers.
-  Ensure that parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, doctors and participants understand their authority and their responsibility for fair play in Rugby.
-  Offer clinics to improve the standards of coaching and refereeing with emphasis on good sportsmanship and the development of good technical skills.
-  Ensure adequate supervision is maintained at all games.
-  Behave in a manner to set an example for all participants.
-  Create pathways for club members to participate not just as players but also as coaches, referees, administrators and club officials.
-  Do not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol before or during matches or club functions

## **TEAM/CLUB OFFICIAL'S CODE**

-  Place the safety and welfare of players above all else.
-  Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players.
-  Be impartial, consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
-  Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for the individuality of players.
-  Avoid any situations which may lead to or be construed as a conflict of interest.
-  Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance and ensure my comments are positive and supportive.
-  Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.
-  Do not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol before or during matches.
-  Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

## **PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S / SPECTATOR'S CODE**

- ☐ Do not force an unwilling youngster to participate in Rugby.
- ☐ Remember, young people are involved in Rugby for their enjoyment, not yours.
- ☐ Encourage your child to always play by the laws.
- ☐ Teach players that honest effort is as important as victory so the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- ☐ Turn defeat into victory by helping players work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- ☐ Remember that young people learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- ☐ Do not publicly question the referee's judgment and never his/her honesty – respect their decision.
- ☐ Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from Rugby.
- ☐ Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and referees. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for players.
- ☐ Thank the coaches, volunteers and officials who give their time to conduct the event for your child
- ☐ Help when asked by a coach, official or administrator
- ☐ Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.
- ☐ Do not criticise or ridicule your child's performance after the game.
- ☐ Do not arrive at the venue intoxicated or become intoxicated during matches.
- ☐ Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
- ☐ Sledging is not accepted in any shape or form.

**Under our Competition Rules, Downs Rugby has the power to cite Players, Coaches, match officials and/or Spectators for behaviour that may bring the game of Rugby into disrepute and which is contrary to this Code of Conduct. If any accusations are proven, those offending players, coaches, match officials and/or spectators could find themselves expelled and/or banned from any match/event associated with Downs Rugby.**