

## APPENDIX 2 – CODES OF CONDUCT

### (A) THE GOOD MATCH OFFICIALS CODE

#### Match Officials should:

- (a) Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating players.
- (b) Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner during games.
- (c) Emphasise the spirit of the game.
- (d) Appreciate the needs of the players before the needs of the sport.
- (e) Understand the physical and behavioural development of players.
- (f) Be a positive role model. Set an example, and as such, comments should be positive and supportive.
- (g) Look to self-improvement e.g. participation in training courses.
- (h) Recognise that the safety of players is paramount.
- (i) Explain decisions – all players are still learning and parents will understand the game better.
- (j) Always penalise foul play.
- (k) Play advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow.
- (l) Show empathy for the age and ability of players.
- (m) Be consistent and objective.
- (n) Be familiar with the Good Spectator's Code and ensure that verbal abuse from players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated and is dealt with by club officials immediately.
- (o) Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.
- (p) Officiate to the rules laid down in the Rugby Continuum and keep themselves updated on rule changes.
- (q) Check that the home Club or School has provided a qualified first aider, ambulance access has not been obstructed and that appropriate equipment is available along with someone trained in its use before starting play.
- (r) Before training sessions and matches check that studs and other clothing are in accordance with the iRB Laws of the Game.

## **(B) THE GOOD COACHES' CODE**

### **Coaches of players should:**

- (a) Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players.
- (b) Understand that most learning is achieved through doing.
- (c) Appreciate the needs of the players before the needs of the sport.
- (d) Be a positive role model – think what this implies.
- (e) Keep winning and losing in perspective – encourage players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- (f) Respect all referees and the decisions they make, even if they appear to make a mistake, (remember it could be you refereeing next week) and ensure that the players recognise that they must do the same.
- (g) Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner to all players, both during coaching sessions and matches.
- (h) provide rugby experiences which are matched to the players' ages and abilities, as well as their physical and behavioural development.
- (i) Ensure all players are coached in a safe environment, with adequate first aid readily to hand.
- (j) Avoid the overplaying of the best players by using a squad system which gives everybody a satisfactory amount of playing time.
- (k) Never allow a player to train or play when injured.
- (l) Ensure good supervision of players, both on and off the field.
- (m) Recognise that players should never be exposed to extremes of heat, cold or unacceptable risk of injury.
- (n) Develop an awareness of nutrition as part of an overall education in lifestyle management.
- (o) Recognise that it is illegal for players under 18 to drink alcohol or for those under 16 to smoke. Coaches should actively discourage both.
- (p) Ensure that their knowledge and coaching strategies are up to date and in line with RFU philosophy.
- (q) Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU recommended procedures for taking young people on residential tours at home and abroad.
- (r) Be aware of and abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the Policy and Procedures for the Welfare of Young People in Rugby Union.
- (s) Coach to the rules laid down in the Rugby Continuum and keep themselves updated on rule changes.

## **(C) THE GOOD PLAYER'S CODE**

### **Players should be encouraged to:**

- (a) Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, match officials and administration in providing the opportunity to play the game and enjoy the rugby environment.
- (b) Understand the values of loyalty and commitment to adults and team mates.
- (c) Recognise that every player has a right to expect their involvement in rugby to be safe and free from all types of abuse.
- (d) Understand that if an individual or group of players feel they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, then they should tell an adult either at the Club or School or outside of the game.
- (e) Play because they want to do so, not to please coaches or parent.
- (f) Remember that skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important parts of the game.
- (g) Be attentive at all training and coaching sessions.
- (h) Work equally hard for themselves and their team – both will then benefit.
- (i) Recognise good play by all players on their team and by their opponents.
- (j) Be a sportsman – win with dignity, lose with grace.
- (k) Play to the iRB Laws of the Game and accept, without question, all referees' decision even if they appear to make a mistake.
- (l) Control their emotions. Verbal or physical abuse of team mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or spectators is not acceptable.
- (m) Treat all players, as they would like to be treated themselves. Do not interfere with, bully or take advantage of any player.

## **(D) THE GOOD PARENT'S CODE**

### **Club and Schools should encourage parents and guardians to:**

- (a) Be familiar with the coaching and training programme in order that they can ensure their child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their availability.
- (b) Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing the coaching and training sessions in which their child participates.
- (c) Be aware that the Club or School has a duty of care to ensure the safety of players and therefore, where appropriate, assist coaches with the supervision of the players, particularly where numbers are large and there is a need to transport players to away games.

- (d) Be involved with Club and School activities and share their expertise.
- (e) Share concerns, if they have them, with Club or School officials.
- (f) Be familiar with the Good Coaches' Code contained in the RFU Continuum. In particular, be aware that:
  - coaches should recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players; and
  - coaches should keep winning and losing in perspective – encourage players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- (g) Support coaches in installing these values.
- (h) Remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment not that of their parents.
- (i) Encourage young people to play – do not force them.
- (j) Focus on the players' efforts, rather than winning or losing.
- (k) Be realistic about the players' abilities; do not push them towards a level they are not capable of achieving.
- (l) Provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
- (m) Remember that persistent, negative messages will adversely affect the players' and referee's performance and attitude.
- (n) Always support the Club and School in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
- (o) Remember young people learn much by example.
- (p) Always show appreciation of good play by all players both from their own Club or School and the opposition.
- (q) Respect decisions made by the match officials, even if they appear to be a mistake, and encourage players to do likewise.

## **(E) THE GOOD SPECTATOR'S CODE**

### **Club and Schools should encourage spectators to:**

- (a) Act as positive role models to all players.
- (b) Be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidelines in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.
- (c) Respect guidance from the Club or School with regard to spectator behaviour.

- (d) Remember children play sport primarily for their own enjoyment, not for that of spectators.
- (e) Acknowledge good individual and team performance from all players irrespective of the team in which they play.
- (f) Respect match officials' decisions, even if they appear to be a mistake – remember, they are volunteers providing an opportunity for players to play rugby.
- (g) Never verbally abuse players, coaches, match officials or fellow spectators: such behaviour can create a negative environment for players and their behaviour will often reflect this.
- (h) Acknowledge effort and good performance rather than 'to win at all costs'.
- (i) Verbally encourage all players in a positive manner, shouting 'for' not 'at' the players.
- (j) Encourage all players irrespective of their ability – never ridicule any individual player, regardless of the team in which they play.