



MORPETH RFC

Code of Conduct

Rugby is a game of long traditions which have developed over time into several values that guide the way the game is played and how players, coaches, officials and supporters conduct themselves. At its core, rugby is a physical game and a fundamental value is one of respect - for opponents, teammates and officials. Rugby for the vast majority, remains a sport played for enjoyment. As such, other core values we aspire to are firm and inclusive. You will find that those Rugby Core values embedded in the codes of conduct, and the minis terms and conditions below.

Parents Code

- Be aware of the Club and RFU's policies on child protection.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate - its supposed to be for them, and you may put them off rugby forever
- Encourage your child to adopt, understand and play within the RFU core values and rules.
- Teach your child that taking part, and trying their best, are more important than winning.
- Focus your child on practicing their skills, sportsmanship and being part of a team. Winning isn't everything, and the winning try is a team effort.
- Support and encourage your child - never criticize them. Console and encourage them to try harder next time.
- Set an example for sportsmanship - applaud good play by all.
- Never publicly criticize a referee or linesman - there is no place for 'touchline rage' not in rugby.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sport. Report concerns to the Child Protection Officer or Chairman.
- Help the club function properly by turning up on time with the appropriate kit. Be prepared to help out if asked. Leave all children's valuables including mobile phones at home.
- Support your coaches - they are giving up their time to train your child. If you have any issues with the way a coach is performing, talk to them first. Refer any issues to an Officer of the Club.

Spectators Code

- Spectators should embrace the traditional ethos of the game, and act as positive role models for all young players. Condemn bad language, rude behavior, violence, never ridicule any individual and always remain outside the playing area.
- It should be noted Morpeth Rugby Club endorse the RFU in total respect for match officials. No member shall abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee, touch judge or other match official, whether on or off the field of play, or use crude or abusive language, or gestures towards the said official or spectators.

Coaches Code

- Be aware of the Club and RFU's policies on child protection. Always employ best practice.
- Be a good role model and teach young people the Core Values of Rugby.
- Don't overload young players with demands, technical information and tactics - remember they are children and they are playing rugby for fun.
- Don't over play the better players - include everyone.
- Players develop at different times and in different ways - make allowances for their physical, emotional and mental maturity and development.
- Winning isn't everything - teach your players to enjoy taking part and performing to the best of their ability. Encourage each player to reach his or her potential.
- Never abuse, criticise or ridicule children for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Be organised - establish a structure for the season, prepare a coaching plan for each session, have the appropriate kit. Above all, communicate to players, parents and fellow coaches to set expectations.
- Make sure players learn the rules and laws of the game, that they respect opponents, teammates, coaches and officials.
- Never question an official's judgement or honesty.
- Ensure players and parents behaviour is appropriate and in keeping with the spirit of the game and the expectations of the Club.

Players Code

- Always adopt the core values of Rugby and represent your club and our sport. Play within the rules and laws of the game.
- Play to enjoy rugby - always try your best to improve your skills and play well.
- Never argue with referees or coaches - their decision is final, (even if you think that they are wrong).
- Rugby is a team game - do your best for your teammates and don't try to grab all that glory for yourself.
- Don't show off, lose your cool, pick on other players or generally misbehave - it's not part of rugby. If you lose, accept it with good grace and try harder next time.
- Respect good play - from opponents or your team.
- Help teammates, opponents, coaches and officials - you can't play rugby on your own.
- Do not bring any valuables or mobile telephones to rugby -leave them at home.
- The codes of conduct above set out the values and behaviour we strongly aspire to at Morpeth RFC.

Any Persons found to be contravening the above guidelines may be asked to leave the club.

Debbie Yilmaz. Morpeth Rugby Football Club Safeguarding officer