

Letchworth Garden City Rugby Club (“Club”)

Code of Conduct and Guidance for Club Officials, Coaches and Volunteers

The Club has the following code of conduct for all coaches, club officials and volunteers. This Code of conduct summarises the essence of good ethical conduct and practice. Accordingly, all coaches, club officials and volunteers will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person and treat them equally within the context of rugby union;
- Place the physical and emotional well being of all young players above all other considerations, including performance;
- Ensure the relationship that develops with the players with whom they work must be based on mutual trust and respect
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Encourage young players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play)
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the Rugby Football Union/ Rugby Football Union Women’s (RFU/RFUW) and the Club
- Never exert undue influence over players to obtain personal benefit or reward
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibitive substances
- Be aware of the facts about child development and the physical, intellectual and emotional capabilities of the age group you work with
- Never ridicule or belittle any player and make every player feel valued
- Understand and abide by the Rugby Continuum which forms part of the laws of the game
- Always look and behave in an appropriate manner
- Ensure that all coaching sessions must start and finish on time
- Be responsible for the safety of the players you work with, which includes:
 - Marking out a safe playing area and keeping it safe.
 - Ensuring all equipment is in good condition
 - Never “join in” with full contact and/or touch games and drills
 - Never encouraging or allow players to play on an injury
- **Never put themselves in a position where you could be suspected of or accused of, physical or sexual abuse of any child associated with the Club. Therefore, you must:**
 - **Always use a separate changing room from the players,**
 - **Never be alone with individuals behind closed doors:**
 - **Never take a child in your car unless there is another person with you; and**
 - **Never get in a bath/shower with a child or with children who are legal minors.**