

SWAFFHAM RUGBY CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

Any coach or volunteer working with young players within Swaffham Rugby Football club is part of a structure that has many stakeholders, and as such he/she has responsibilities to all of them.

This code has been written to remind or inform coaches and volunteers of those responsibilities and the minimum standards of behaviour commensurate with fulfilling them. Each season every coach active in the section will be called to declare that they have read, understood *and intend to abide* by this code.

Players

1. Rugby is only part of players lives. Recognise this and allow for it in your demands on them.
2. Treat games against other clubs as lessons, opportunities to learn and progress. They are not tests.
3. Rugby is for everyone. Swaffham Rugby Club is for everyone. Do not rely on “Star” players and never exclude another player making him feel inadequate. Share game time and your time in training sessions equally.
4. Never ridicule any player. Never belittle a player. Always make every player feel valued and part of the team.
5. Endeavour to find out what motivates each individual player. Find out about their family background and their other interests. Be able to spot and then explain changes in their behaviour.
6. Find out the facts about child development and the physical, intellectual and emotional capabilities of the age group that you are working with.

Rugby Union

7. Rugby is a potentially dangerous game which relies on every participant playing in the spirit of mutual respect. Teach your players the meaning of “fair play” and set them an exemplary example.
8. Rugby works best when played between two equally matched teams. **INSIST** on mixing and matching ill matched teams.
9. A group of very experienced, talented people spent a great deal of time and letter. You have no option, the Continuum is part of the structure and LAWS of the game
10. Teach players, by your own example, to respect the Referee. At ALL times.

Coaching

11. When you call yourself a coach, you have applied to join an elite group of dedicated people. When those around you call you a coach, you have achieved membership. You owe it to yourself and your fellow coaches to behave as a coach:
 - a) Always look like a coach. Always act like a coach.
 - b) Start and finish promptly on time.
 - c) Plan your season.
 - d) Plan the coaching sessions.
 - e) Do not drink alcohol before you coach, or whilst coaching.
 - f) Do not smoke whilst coaching.
12. To be an effective, progressive coach you must keep up to date on playing and coaching matters. Always seek to improve your knowledge.
13. You have duty of care and safety for the players that you work with:
 - a) Mark out a safe area to work in and keep it safe. Ensure all the equipment is in a good state of repair and safe to use.
 - b) Never “**Join In**” during ring contact sessions and games. You are too big and too powerful and you *will* break them.
 - c) Do not allow players to train or play when injured or encourage them to do so. Refer injured players to their doctor, or preferably to a sports injury clinic.
14. Never put yourself in a position where you could be suspected of, or accused of, physical or sexual abuse of any child associated with the club.
15. Use a separate changing room from the players, never be alone with individuals behind closed doors and *never* “get in the bath with the boys”.
16. Tell the players and keep telling yourself that winning and losing are only by-products of performance. **WE ARE HERE TO PLAY RUGBY AND ENJOY THE PRIVILEGE OF PLAYING, NOTHING MORE.**