

Reading Rugby Football Club

COACHES: CODE OF CONDUCT

The Youth Section of Reading Rugby Football Club (RRFC) has adopted the following Coaches' Code of conduct as recommended by the Rugby Football Union (RFU). This code reflects the Club's intention to develop all players to the limit of their ability and ambition without losing sight of the fact that the game is for fun and enjoyment. By adopting this Code Coaches will support the Club in developing well-rounded players capable of winning friends and respect throughout the game.

The code is a series of guidelines and should be used in conjunction with comparable publications produced by the sport's National Governing Body.

Any reference in this code of ethics and conduct to coach or coaches will also mean manager or managers and both terms should be construed accordingly.

Any reference to child or young person either as individually or jointly shall mean any person under the ages of 18 years.

- All coaches must respect the rights, dignity, diversity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination. Specifically, coaches must treat everyone with equity and sensitivity, within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation.
- Coaches are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with the players. This is particularly important when the player is a young person. The coach must realise that certain situations or friendly words and actions may be misinterpreted, not only by the player, but also by the outsiders (or other members of the squad) Whether or not motivated by jealousy, dislike or mistrust, and could lead to allegations of mistrust or impropriety.
- Where physical contact between coach and player is a necessary part of the coaching process, coaches must ensure that no action on their part could be misconstrued and that any National Governing Body guidelines on this matter are followed.
- The relationship of the coach and player relies heavily on mutual trust and respect. This means that the player should be aware of the coach's qualifications and experience, and must be given the opportunity to consent or decline proposals for training, performance or competition.
- Coaches should treat games against other clubs as lessons, opportunities to learn not as tests. The enjoyment and involvement of all the players is more important than "winning".
- Mini Rugby is for both boys and girls. Inclusive language should be used when talking to the children e.g. rather than "boys" perhaps "players" would be a good idea.
- Coaches should not rely on 'star' players and never make any players feel excluded or under valued. Share game time and practice sessions equally.
- Youth Rugby works well when the sides are evenly matched. Always endeavour to mix and match ill matched teams.
- Coaches should be familiar with the Continuum especially in respect of the age and ability that they are working with.
- Coaches should clarify in advance with players, the number of training sessions, and explain to the players (and parent if deemed necessary) the expectation and outcome of the session.
- Always respect the referee and teach the players by example the meaning of 'fair play'.
- All coaches who have responsibility for a group will keep records of attendance, parent telephone numbers and accidents to players.

- Coaches should not encourage players to violate the laws of the game. They should actively seek to discourage all such actions and encourage players to respect both the referee and the letter of the laws.
- Coaches should project a high personal standard and image of good health practice, cleanliness and functional efficiency.
- Coaches are expected to turn up before the children they are coaching so that the sessions start on time.
- Coaches are expected to plan each session and prepare coaching area before each session. These plans must be flexible to adapt to level of interest, weather conditions etc.
- All training equipment should be checked prior to training and safely stored at the end of each session.
- All coaches must be aware of the procedure for evacuating casualties to hospital.
- Coaches must always inform parents (or guardian) of any injury to players especially any head impact.
- After training sessions coaches should:-
 - Brief players about the location of next week's session.
 - Issue maps and, with the parent representative, arrange lifts if required for away matches.
 - To set an example, coaches should change from playing kit after training and before the going into the clubhouse.

All Coaches / Managers are required to abide by the above code of ethics and conduct whilst engaged on duties that relate to the coaching or managing of players or children or young persons on behalf of the Club. All coaches / Managers must sign and return the attached acknowledgement slip and contract agreeing to observe this code of ethics and conduct.