



Warwickshire Rugby Football Union



Old Coventrians RFC - Codes of Conduct

The RFU Codes of Conduct ensure that all adults within a rugby club clearly understand the acceptable standard of behaviour towards children and young people.

All club members must adhere to the relevant RFU Codes of Conduct:

- *Club Code of Conduct*
- *Coaches Code of Conduct*
- *Young People Code of Conduct*
- *Parents Code of Conduct*
- *Spectators Code of Conduct*
- *Match Officials Code of Conduct*

These Codes of Conduct are supported by the Warwickshire Rugby Football Union and breaches will be reported for appropriate action to be taken.

Old Coventrians RFC ensures and makes available the following Codes of Conduct to all club officials, coaches, young players, medical support staff, parents and spectators etc. When joining the Old Coventrians RFC you will be asked to sign to ensure you are aware of the various Codes of Conduct and must agree to abide by them. Breaching the Codes of Conduct will mean that appropriate action will be taken.

Old Coventrians RFC Code of Conduct

Old Coventrians RFC's Code of Conduct ensures that:

- The rights, dignity and worth of young people are respected and treated.
- The physical and emotional well-being of all young players must be placed above all other considerations.
- The relationship developed between adults and young people with whom they work must be based on mutual trust and respect.
- All activities undertaken are appropriate to the age, maturity, experience and ability of the young players.
- Young players should be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Young players (and their parents/carers) are aware of what is expected of them both on and off the rugby field and also what they are entitled to expect from the coaches.
- Everyone, including coaches, officials, doctors, physiotherapists etc, should ensure the well-being, safety and enjoyment of all young players.
- The positive aspects of the sport e.g. fair play must be promoted.
- Behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant regulations or the use of prohibited techniques or substances must never be condoned.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Old Coventrians RFC's Code of Conduct for Coaches ensures that:

- The coaches provide experiences, which are matched to the young players' age and ability, as well as their physical and mental development.
- All youngsters are coached in a safe environment with adequate first aid readily available.
- The coaches avoid the overplaying of the best players by using a squad system which gives everybody a satisfactory amount of playing time.
- There is appropriate supervision of young players both on and off the field.
- They recognise that young players should never be exposed to extremes of heat, cold or unacceptable risk of injury.
- The coaches develop an awareness of nutrition as part of an overall education in lifestyle management.
- They recognise that it is illegal for young players under 18 to drink alcohol.

- They ensure that their knowledge and coaching strategies are up to date and in line with RFU philosophy and expectations.
- They are aware of, and abide by, the RFU recommended procedures for taking young people on residential tours at home and abroad.
- The coaches are aware of, and abide by, the policies and procedures outlined in the Policies and Procedures for the Safeguarding of Young People in Rugby Union.

In Rugby Union Coaches should:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching young players. Most learning is achieved through “doing”.
- Appreciate the needs of the players before the needs of the sport.
- Be a positive role model.
- Keep winning and losing in perspective – encourage young players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- Respect all referees and the decisions they make (remember it could be you refereeing next week) and ensure that the players recognise that they must do the same.
- Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner, to all young players both during coaching sessions and games.

YOUNG PEOPLES CODE OF CONDUCT

Old Coventrians RFC’s Code of Conduct for Young People ensures that:

- All young people treat each other with the same respect and fairness.
- They respect differences in gender, disability, culture, race, ethnicity and religious belief systems.
- All young people appreciate that every player brings something valuable and different to the game.
- They show patience and act with dignity towards others at all times.
- They are aware of their own welfare and that of others and that they do not act irresponsibly or illegally.
- All young people take time to thank those who assist them, whether it be family, organisations or team mates.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

Old Coventrians RFC’s Code of Conduct for Parents ensures that:

- They remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment not that of their parents.
- They encourage young people to play – do not force them.
- The focus on the young players’ efforts rather than winning or losing.
- They are realistic about the young players’ ability; not pushing them towards a level that they are not capable of achieving.
- They provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
- **Remember persistent, negative messages will adversely affect the players and referee’s performance and attitude.**
- They always support the rugby club in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
- They remember that young people learn by example.
- They always show appreciation of good play by ALL young players both from your own club and the opposition.
- They respect decisions made by the match officials and encourage the young players to do likewise.

Old Coventrians RFC encourages Parents to:

- Be familiar with the coaching and training programme in order that their child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their ability.
- Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing the sessions in which their child participates.
- Be aware that the club has a duty of care and therefore, where appropriate, assist coaches with the supervision of the young players, particularly where numbers are large and there is a need to transport youngsters to away games.
- Be involved with club activities and share their expertise.
- Share concerns, if they have them, with club officials.
- Be familiar with the “Good Coaches Code” and in particular that Coaches should recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching young players.

- Coaches should keep winning and losing in perspective, encouraging young players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- **It is important that parents support coaches in instilling these virtues.**

SPECTATORS CODES OF CONDUCT

Old Coventrians RFC's Code of Conduct for Spectator ensures that:

In Rugby Union players are impressionable and their behaviour will often reflect that of the adults around them. In Rugby Union we welcome spectators on our touchlines who embrace the ethos of the game as one of **FUN, ENJOYMENT** and **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**.

In Rugby Union Spectators are encouraged to:

- Act as positive role models to all young players.
- Be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU and RFUW Safeguarding of Young People guidance in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.
- Respect the rugby club policy with regard to spectator behaviour.

MATCH OFFICIALS CODES OF CONDUCT

When refereeing young players, match officials should:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players.
- Provide verbal feedback in a positive way during games.
- Appreciate the needs of the players.
- Be a positive role model.
- Recognise that safety is paramount.
- Explain decisions - most young players are still learning.
- Never tolerate verbal abuse.

Officials should not:

- Change in the same area as young players.
- Shower with young players - agree a timetable with the coaches.
- Be alone with young players at any time - if a young player comes into the dressing room ensure another adult is present.
- Check studs without the coach being present.
- Administer first aid.
- Allow a young player to continue playing if there are doubts about their fitness.
- Tolerate bad language from young players.
- Engage in any inappropriate contact with young players.
- Give a lift to a player unless there are other young people or adults in the car and the parents are aware.
- Take a young player to your home.
- Overtly criticise young players or use language which may cause the player to lose confidence or self-esteem.
- Make sexually explicit remarks to young players, even in fun.

Officials must always:

Report, in writing, to the Club or CB Safeguarding Manager and/or Society Secretary, behaviour by adults which you feel contravenes RFU and RFUW recommended Policies and Procedures for the Safeguarding of Young People:

- Verbal bullying by coaches/parents/spectators.
- Physical abuse by coaches/parents/spectators.
- Inappropriate or aggressive contact by an adult to a young person.
- Verbal abuse directed at the official by young people or adults.

REMEMBER: The safeguard of all young people is paramount.

Club Safeguarding Officer for Old Coventrians RFC is: Sue Applegate Telephone Number: 024 7640 7423 Mobile: 07861 747547	County Safeguarding Manager for Warwickshire RFU is: Jane Waterhouse Email: janeurfu@btinternet.com Home: 024 7641 7650 Mobile: 07931 589075
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