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Bournemouth Rugby Football Club Mini/Midi and Youth Section

Codes of Conduct

If 'winning is everything' then you have already lost





Bournemouth Rugby Football Club

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Foreword

Welcome to the Mini/Midi and Youth Section of the Bournemouth Rugby Football Club.

Our aim is to provide an environment where children can safely learn the game of Rugby Union and all that involves:

- Laws, techniques and skills
- Fair play and sportsmanship
- Social life and friendship
- ENJOYMENT

This pack gives a guideline to the philosophy of the RFU and how we at Bournemouth implement that philosophy.

We hope you and your child(ren) enjoy and benefit from their time at Bournemouth RFC and look forward to receiving your support in what the club is aiming to achieve.



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.CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

At Bournemouth RFC we believe that taking part in our sport should be a positive and enjoyable part of children's lives.

We want to make sure that children are protected and kept safe from physical, sexual and emotional harm while they are with the Club's coaches, helpers and other volunteers.

To do this we have these aims:

- As a club, we will promote 'fair play' and always play within the spirit of the laws and, for age groups U7 to U12, the letter of the continuum.
- All coaches will go on a START COACHING RUGBY UNION course before they begin working with children.
- All coaches and other volunteers will have a job description.
- All coaches will be qualified to Level 1 before they are allowed to be the Head Coach of an age group.
- The Club will encourage and help coaches to stay up-to-date with rugby, coaching and child protection issues. Each head Coach will attend an NCF Coach Protection Workshop.
- All coaches, administrators, parents and other volunteers involved with the club will be given a copy of the Club's Code of Conduct booklet and will be expected to keep to it at all times.
- We will keep written records of attendance, parental consent and accidents.
- We will provide a written Health and Safety policy covering fire procedures, telephone access and first aid and emergency procedures.
- We will provide coaches and parents with a written procedure for dealing with accusations or suspicions of child abuse.
- We will identify a person whose role it is to deal with any concerns about physical, sexual or emotional abuse within the club: the 'Child Welfare Officer'.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS REGARDING THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD(REN), CONTACT THE CLUB "CHILD WELFARE OFFICER"



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Complaints And Disciplinary Procedures

On the field of play, the referee has sole jurisdiction.

At other times/places or subsequent to certain playing incidents, the Disciplinary Committee will undertake any disciplinary investigation/action in conjunction with the appointed coach of the age group concerned (or the team manager, as appropriate). The disciplinary committee comprises the Junior Section Vice Chairman (or a nominated deputy Mini/Midi/Youth Officer), and the Coaching coordinator.

If a formal hearing is deemed necessary, the Disciplinary Committee plus the chairpersons of both the junior and senior sections and one other committee member will undertake investigation/action.

The player, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and the age group coach will also be invited to attend.

Anybody with a complaint within the Junior Section should, in the first instance, raise it with any of the club officials. If this does not result in a satisfactory solution, then they should submit the complaint in writing to the Junior Club Secretary where it will be dealt with at the next committee meeting.

If it is felt necessary, an emergency committee meeting will be called at an earlier date where the person making the complaint will be invited to attend if they wish.



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Partnership between Club and Parents

In rugby union, there is a partnership between club/team management and parents. At Bournemouth this is positively encouraged through:

- Providing a seasonal diary of the times and dates of training, matches and competitions
- Providing information on possible financial issues
- Agreeing issues relating to Duty of Care (e.g., responsibility for travelling to and from games)
- Encouraging parents to attend coaching sessions and games ... the club is not a crèche facility.
- Making parents aware that the 'win at all costs' ethos is ***not accepted*** in Rugby Union.
- Ensuring that parents have realistic aspirations for their child and are aware of his/her strengths and weaknesses.
- Informing parents about specialist equipment that is required (e.g., gum shields) and where it can be purchased.
- Ensuring parents are aware of what is acceptable touchline behaviour

And above all:

- Involving parents in peripheral activities, which make them feel they 'belong', especially if it involves expertise which is not rugby related.



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The Coach's Code

Young people come into Rugby Union for a variety of reasons; it is the duty of the coach to recognize this and stimulate continued participation.

You can rest assured, however, that one of those reasons will NOT be to bolster the coaches ego, or to win silverware for his/her trophy cabinet.

Coaches have a responsibility to ensure that all youngsters are given the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations in a caring environment where the emphasis is on: -

- FUN
- ENJOYMENT
- SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Any coach working with young players within Bournemouth Rugby Union 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 of those responsibilities and the minimum standards of behaviour commensurate with fulfilling them. Each season every coach active in the section will be called on to warrant they have read, understood *and intend to abide by* this code.

- Some very clever people with masses of experience went to a lot of trouble to construct the Continuum and the Laws of the game. Understand them and abide by them, *to the letter*. You have no option.
- Be reasonable! Rugby may be your whole life, but young players have other interests: Rugby is only a part of players' lives. Please recognise this and allow for it in your demands on them.
- Treat games against other clubs as lessons, opportunities to learn not as 'test's.
- Teach them to play by the rules/laws - and be sure they understand why: because that is what both teams have agreed to do. Anything else is unfair.
- Rugby is for everyone: Bournemouth RFC is for everyone. Do not rely on 'star' players and never make any player feel like a 'spare part'. Share game time and your time in practice sessions equally. Your average players deserve your attention too.



The Match Officials Code

Match officials are an integral part of the development of young players. They have a responsibility to ensure that games are managed in such a way as to ensure both the safety and enjoyment of all players. Equally, match officials should gain respect from players, coaches and spectators, through the quality of their officiating.

- Recognise that the safety of young players is paramount and remember the importance of fun and enjoyment.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game.
- Explain decisions - all young players are still learning.
- Always penalise foul play.
- Play advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow.
- Show empathy for the age and ability of young players.
- Be consistent and objective.
- Be a positive role model. You set an example and, as such, comments you make should be positive and supportive.
- Ensure that verbal abuse from players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated and is dealt with by club officials immediately.
- Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU and BRFC Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.



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The Player's Code

Young players should recognise that many people in Rugby Union are working to provide a safe and enjoyable game in which they can develop both as a player and as an individual:

- Play for fun - not just to please your parents or the coach.
- Play by the rules. No rules - no game.
- NEVER argue with the referee. He won't change his decision, and he might penalize your team again - for arguing.
- Control your temper - and your mouth.
- Never give up. The game's not lost until it's won.
- Be a good sport. Recognize good rugby - even when it comes from the other team.
- Be fair. Don't chuck your weight about.
- Be attentive at coaching sessions ... improve your skills. You'll play better and feel better.
- Don't be selfish. Co-operate with your team, the referee and your opponents. Without them you have no game.
- Don't show off - even when you've scored.
- Respect your club: its facilities, its people.
- Respect your opponents' clubs: their facilities, their people.
- From U11's we ask that smart clothes be worn after every match. This includes smart trousers (not joggers), shoes (not trainers), and a collared shirt with preferably a club tie or school tie. Training tops can be worn over the shirt
- Understand that, if an individual or group of young players feel that they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, you have the right to tell an adult either at the rugby club or outside of the game.



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- Never condemn; don't shout at a player for dropping a pass. Never use scorn or sarcasm. Winning may be everything to you, but (believe it or not) losing is not a disaster for them - provided they enjoyed playing.
- Being coached should be fun too; in practice sessions don't overwork your players. Don't coach them longer or harder than they can take.
- Be alert to sudden changes in behaviour and possible reasons why.
- Be aware of any medical condition and/or medication that may affect a young player.
- Find out the facts about child development and the physical, intellectual and emotional capabilities of the age group you work with.
- Give your voice a rest - even if your players are doing well. Often a quiet word does more good. You don't improve players by deafening them.
- Be generous with praise - when it's deserved. If you must criticise, be positive. (Telling a player he's terrible is no way to help him improve). Smile! Enjoy yourself! That's what rugby is about: fun.
- Good coaching means they run with the ball. Don't make them stand and listen to you. You'll bore them! Minimise your chat and maximize their activity.
- Rugby is a potentially dangerous game, which relies on every participant playing it in the spirit of mutual respect. Teach the players you work with the meaning of 'fair play' and set them a good example.
- Avoid mismatches. Even in the same age group, one player may be twice as big or strong as another. Use common sense - don't expose players to risk when they haven't been adequately trained or coached. **INSIST** on mixing and matching mismatched teams.
- Learn the Laws of the game and learn to Referee. Teach players, by your example, to respect the referee. Always!
- Coaching: When you call yourself a coach you apply to join an elite; when others call you a coach you have achieved membership. You owe it to yourself and to all other coaches to behave as a coach:
 - Always look like a coach; always act like a coach.
 - Start on time and finish on time.
 - Plan your season.



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- Plan your sessions
- Do not drink alcohol before you work, or while you are working. And remember that it is illegal for persons under the age of 18 to drink alcohol.
- Do not smoke when you are working. And remember that it is illegal for persons under the age of 16 to smoke.
- To be a good coach you need up to date information on coaching issues and rugby issues. Stay in touch.
- You are responsible for the safety and well-being of the young players you work with:
- Get the right equipment and facilities; be sure they are suitable for your player's age and ability.
- Mark out a safe area and keep it safe. Make sure equipment is in good repair and safe.
- Never 'join in' with contact drills and games. You are too big and too hard and you will break them.
- Doctor knows best. When a player's been injured, follow medical advice about when he/she's ready to play again.
- Do not 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. Use a separate changing room from players, never be alone with individuals behind close doors and never 'get in the bath with the players'.
- Tell the players and keep telling yourself that winning and losing are only by-products of performance. We are there to play and to enjoy playing, nothing more.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING UP YOUR TIME TO COACH THE YOUNG PLAYERS OF BOURNEMOUTH RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB.



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The Parent's and Spectator's Code

In Rugby Union coaches and administrators both fully acknowledge that parents are an integral part of the partnership, which ensures that young players enjoy their involvement in the sport and experience an environment in which they can flourish:

- Never force a child to play rugby
- Always remember: children play rugby for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your child to play by the Rules/Laws. Make it clear that cheating is just a way to get an unfair advantage by dodging the Rules. You must act as a role model for the young players
- Teach your child that victory isn't everything - playing as well as you can is just as important. On any given day, no more than half the teams can win, so defeat is no disgrace.
- Never yell at a player for making a mistake. Never sneer or use sarcasm - you'll make the player feel like a total failure. Remember: he's not playing for your benefit.
- Applaud good play - by either team.
- Back up the referee: don't publicly question his fairness or ability. Children learn best by example. Set a good example.
- Encourage your child to improve his skills through coaching.
- Stay off the pitch. Coaches and referees are qualified to be there, you are not. They have worked hard to earn their qualifications. If you want to get involved in Mini-Rugby, join them and learn how. Otherwise - don't interfere.
- Never abuse anyone - especially the referee. Like the coaches, he is a volunteer and unpaid. He has given up his spare time to give your child the opportunity to play a fair safe game. If you abuse him, he might not return - how can your child play Rugby without a referee?
- Share any concerns you may have with any of the club officials.
- Be familiar with the "The Coach's Code" on Page 4.
- REMEMBER:
"IF WINNING IS EVERYTHING THEN YOU'VE ALREADY LOST"