

Sanctions

Note - Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators.

1. No person/s attending a match shall:
 - a) Use offensive or obscene language to any player, coach, referee, touch judge, official or other spectator;
 - b) Enter the Field of Play during the course of a match without the prior approval of the Ground Manager appointed by the home club &/or league
 - c) Dispute the decision of a match official either during or after a match;
 - d) Assault or act with aggression to any person/s;
 - e) Behave in a way contrary to this Code of Conduct &/or the spirit of the game;
 - f) Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of the match by any other person/s, or brings discredit to the home club &/or league;
 - g) Act in such a way as to exhibit racial intolerance, by language or other conduct, to any other person/s;
 - h) Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the Ground Manager, official of the home club &/or league, or official of the team/club which that person/s is supporting.
2. Any person/s contravening Rule 1 may be reported by the Ground Manager to the Team Manager or other official of the team, which that person/s is supporting. Where a team does not have a Team Manager present, a request or direction from the Ground Manager to any official of the team or the team's club shall be regarded as a direction to the Team Manager for the purposes of this Code.
3. The Ground Manager &/or Team Manager must advise the offending person/s of the relevant breach of the Code. The Ground Manager must note the details of their report to the Team Manager on the reverse of the team sheet.
4. In the event that the inappropriate conduct continues, the Ground Manager &/or Team Manager may request the offender/s to immediately leave the ground. This should also be noted on the team sheet.
5. In the event the person/s refuses to obey the direction of the Ground Manager &/or Team Manager, the Ground Manager may direct the referee to terminate the match. In the event that the match is so terminated, the club's &/or league's committee may, at its absolute discretion award the competition points to the non-offending team, or declare that neither side shall be awarded competition points for that match.
6. Clubs which do not exercise control over their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials or spectators may be called upon by the league to accept responsibility for their actions and the following penalties may apply (in addition to penalties which may be imposed by the league's management):

Penalties

Note - Please note that these penalties may be imposed in addition to any disciplinary action taken by a Playing League

- **FIRST OFFENCE** - A fine not exceeding £200 &/or loss of competition points, &/or suspension of the player from playing, &/or suspension of the offender/s from attending future matches.
- **SECOND OFFENCE** - Suspension of the player, &/or team &/or club from the competition on a temporary basis.
- **THIRD OFFENCE** - Suspension of the player &/or team &/or club either for the remainder of the season, or permanently.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct may cause a match to be stopped!



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RESPECT
A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMON GOOD
A CODE OF CONDUCT

- Responsible
- Encouraging
- Sporting
- Positive
- Enjoyable
- Considerate
- Tolerant

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RESPECT

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMON GOOD



a code of conduct
the player

**“i’m
marked,
watched and scrutinised
so i must be
responsible”**

Kevin Sinfield, Great Britain and Leeds Rhinos



FOREWORD

The Respect campaign represents a significant step forward for sport of Rugby League as we seek to reinforce our well-earned reputation as an inclusive, family-friendly sport.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to welcome everybody to this publication that sets out what the game expects from itself as well as the people who participate in it.

Richard Lewis
Executive Chairman - Rugby Football League

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Participants in the game of Rugby League include players, parents, spectators, coaches, match officials, volunteers and administrators. Every participant should:

- Discourage all instances of unsporting behaviour, foul or illegal play, or acts of violence, both on and off the field.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their age, ethnic origin, gender, special needs, including learning and physical disabilities, class or social background, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, colour or political persuasion.
- Condemn the use of recreational and performance-enhancing drugs and doping practices their use endangers the health of players and is contrary to the concept of fair play.
- Important every person who attends a Rugby League match does so with the permission and license of the home club &/or league. Breaches of this Code of Conduct may result in penalties up to and including a fine, loss of team match points and suspension.

PLAYER

- Be a good sport. Respect all good play whether from your team or the opposition and shake hands with and thank the opposition players and officials after the game - win, lose or draw.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit. Make every effort to develop your own abilities.
- Always respect the match official's decision.
- Make every effort to be consistent with Fair Play and the Laws of the Game. Never get involved in foul play.
- Honour both the spirit and letter of the competition rules and live up to the highest ideals of ethics and sportsmanship; avoid gamesmanship and respect the traditions of the game.
- Never engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including swearing, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, taunting or other actions that are demeaning to other players, officials or supporters. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Care for and respect the facilities and equipment made available to you during training and competition.
- Safeguard your health; don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances.
- Recognise that many officials, coaches and match officials are volunteers who give up their time to provide their services. Treat them with the utmost respect. Remember, without them you do not have a game.
- Do not bet or otherwise financially speculate, directly or indirectly, on the outcome or any other aspect of a rugby league match or competition in which you are involved.





a code of conduct
the coach

Matches can be won & lost,
regardless i am always
positive

Paul Cullen, Warrington Wolves Coach

a code of conduct
the official

players are
passionate,
fans are devoted
so i must be
tolerant

Ashley Klein, Super League Match Official

COACH



- Actively discourage foul play and/or unsporting behaviour by players.
- Seek to maximise the participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability; avoid the tendency to over-use a talented player; treat all players as equals, regardless of their talent.
- Show concern and caution towards all sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a doctor and/or Physiotherapist to the letter when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or playing.
- Teach players that an honest effort and competing to the best of their ability is as important as victory.
- Encourage players to respect and accept the judgement of the Match Officials.
- Never engage in public criticism of officials.
- Maintain appropriate, professional relationships with players at all times.
- Make a personal commitment to maintain a knowledge of the rules of the game and keep abreast of current coaching methods; maintain or improve your current accreditation level.
- Always consider the health, safety and welfare of the players.
- Teach young players to realise that there is a big gap between their play and the professional game; do not coach them as if they are professionals.
- Ensure that your coaching reflects the level of the competition being played; do not be a "win-at-all-costs" coach.
- As coach, conduct yourself at all times in a manner, and in all situations, that shows leadership, respect for the game of Rugby League and respect for all those that are involved in the game – the players, officials, the fans, the parents, the match officials and the media.

MATCH OFFICIALS

- Apply the laws of the game with complete impartiality.
- Prepare fully for a match, both physically and mentally.
- Conduct yourself, both on and off the field, with the utmost integrity.
- Set a good example by the way you dress, speak and act towards players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else, be alert to minimise dangerous physical play, fair or foul, especially in junior matches.
- Deal with all instances of unsporting, foul or unfair play.
- Show concern and caution for sick and injured players.
- Be accountable for your actions.
- Accurately report any misconduct to the appropriate authorities.
- Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest both on and off the field.



a code of conduct
the Spectator

“ rugby league faces many demands, it should always be enjoyable ”

Andrew Flintoff, England and Lancashire Cricketer

a code of conduct
the volunteer

“ we always encourage team spirit ”

Michelle Bradbury, Huddersfield Sharks Rugby League Club

PARENT / SPECTATOR

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sport.
- Remember that children participate in Rugby League for their own enjoyment, not yours!
- Understand that sport is part of a total life experience, and the benefits of involvement go far beyond the final score of a game.
- Condemn all violent or illegal acts, whether they are by players, coaches, officials, parents or spectators.
- Respect the match officials decisions – don't complain or argue about decisions during or after a game.
- Behave! Unsporting language, harassment or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Encourage players to play by the rules and to respect opposition players and officials.
- Never ridicule or scorn a player for making a mistake – respect their efforts.
- Participate in positive cheering that encourages the players in the team you are supporting; do not engage in any jeering that taunts or intimidates opponents, their fans or officials.
- At all times, follow the directions of the Ground Manager and/or other match day staff.
- Never arrive at a game under the influence of alcohol, never bring alcohol to a game, and only drink alcohol, if it is available at the ground, in the designated licensed area.

VOLUNTEERS / ADMINISTRATORS

- Always operate to the principle of “friendship first - competition second”
- Ensure that all operations are under the supervision of appropriately qualified people who have been through the required checks.
- Ensure that all volunteers/administrators understand and adhere to the Code of Conduct
- Ensure that all equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
- Encourage all participants to remember that sport is enjoyed for its own sake- play down the importance of awards.

