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**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Code for Coaches**

- Remember that as a coach of an "age grade team" you are to act in "loco parentis" and to that extent your duty of care is more onerous than that of a coach to an adult team.

- Lead by example - young people need a coach whom they respect.

- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a match.

- Teach your players that the Laws of the Game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.

- Prepare young players for inter-class and inter-school activities.

- Be reasonable in your demands on the players' time, energy and enthusiasm.

- Ensure that all players participate in matches. The "average" players require and deserve equal time.

- Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill learning and playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition. Winning is not the only objective.

-Develop player and team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgement of referees and opposing coaches.

- Insist on fair play and disciplined play. Do not tolerate foul play, fighting or foul language. Be prepared to take off an offending player.

- Encourage young players to develop basic skills and sportsmanship. Avoid over specialisation in positional play during their formative years.

- Set realistic goals for the team and individual players and do not push young players into adult-like competitions.

- Create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to train and play.

- Do not over burden younger players with too much information.

- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and methods, and on the principles of growth and development of young people.

- Be aware of the effect you have on growing children.

- Never criticise the referee and touch judges during or after a match in front of players or spectators.

- Always thank the match officials and if they have made decisions which require clarification, discuss the problems after everyone has changed.

- Seek and follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.

- Ensure that proper equipment and facilities are available at all times.

- Be responsible and ensure you uphold the ethos of the game and the IRFU.

- Attend coaching courses.

- Support the Code of Ethics and all policies regarding Children in Sport.

- Ensure you and your players are proud of your team, club and efforts during the season.