

A Code of Conduct for All

Players

Respect the "Game of Rugby" and the laws of the Game.

Accept the referee's decision.

Respect your opponent. Treat all players as you would like to be treated.

Rugby is a team sport, co-operate with your coach; teammates and club members.

Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.

At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match.

Winning and losing is part of sport: Win with humility - lose with dignity.

Supporters

Remember, young people play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours.

Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.

Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at players for making a mistake or losing a match.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from rugby.

As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or players.

Do not publicly question the referees' judgement and never their honesty.

Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.

Be proud of your club and the Game of Rugby

Coaches

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

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.

Remember that players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill learning and playing for fun have priority over 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.

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.

Signed on behalf of	<u>Emerald Warriors RFC</u>
By	 <u>Richie Fagan</u>
Position	<u>Club President</u>
Date	<u>11 November 2019</u>

CODE OF CONDUCT

Code for Players

- Play for enjoyment and become part of the rugby family.
- Respect the "Game of Rugby" and play within the laws of the Game.
- Accept the referee's decision and let your captain or coach ask any relevant questions.
- Play with control. Do not lose your temper.
- Always do your best and be committed to the game, your team and your club.
- Be a "good sport". Applaud all good play whether by your team or the opposition.
- Respect your opponent. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not "bully" or take advantage of any player.
- Rugby is a team sport and make sure you co-operate with your coach; teammates and members of your club.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
- At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match.
- Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Tackle hard but fairly, do not intend to hurt your opponent.
- Winning and losing is part of sport: Win with humility - lose with dignity.
- As part of the team it is important that you attend training regularly and listen to your coach and help your team.
- As a team sport it is important to understand that all members are important to the team!
- Remember you are representing your team, club, family and the Game of Rugby.

Code for Parents

- Remember, young people play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours.
- Encourage your child always to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Teach young children that honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Help young people to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at young players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in the playing of rugby. If the child is to play, he/she will do so in good time through your encouragement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from rugby.
- As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or players.
- Do not publicly question the referees' judgement and never their honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.
- Identify and acknowledge the good qualities of the Game of Rugby and uphold these values.
- Remember you and your child's contribution to the Game of Rugby is very important to the IRFU and be proud of your contribution.
- Understand the value of team sport and the importance thereof.

Code for Coaches

- 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.
- Ensure that all players participate in matches. The "average" players 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.
- Create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to train and play.
- Do not over burden younger players with too much information.
- Be aware of the effect you have on growing children.
- Never criticise the referee or 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.
- Be responsible and ensure you uphold the ethos of the game and the IRFU.
- 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.
- 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.

Code for Spectators

- Remember that although young people play organised rugby they are not "miniature internationals".
- Be on your best behaviour and lead by example. Do not use profane language or harass referees, players or coaches.
- Applaud good play by the visiting team as well as your own.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would not be a match.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms at every opportunity.
- Verbal abuse of players or referees cannot be accepted in any shape or form.
- Players or referees are not fair targets for ignorant behaviour.
- Encourage young players to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Spectators can contribute to the enjoyment of the event and all involved.
- Be proud of your club and the Game of Rugby

Referee Co-Ordinator

Each club, school and college will be obliged to appoint a Referee Co-ordinator officer who would be a contact person between the club and referee's Association for all matters pertaining to refereeing. It was hoped this would lead to a better understanding of each other's' roles/problems resulting in more efficient administration for the enjoyment of all the participants.

To ensure the success of this initiative it is imperative that primarily a suitable person is appointed who understands the role involved and the steps necessary to guarantee its success.

Appropriate guidelines for same are set out below to assist your appointment:

1. The Role objectives are: -
 - To identify and encourage referees from within the Club.
 - To liaise with Referees Association Recruitment Officers re their development
 - To encourage a positive refereeing culture within the club
 - To ensure referees at all levels enjoy match day and participate in post-match socialising
 - To ensure cancelled/re-arranged matches are advised to the Referees Association without delay
 - To report to the club executive monthly on their role

2. The Club should: -
 - Identify potential candidates and discuss the role with them
 - Nominate a qualified capable member
 - Advise Branch/Referees Association of the nominee together with their contact information
 - Ensure Club/Branch handbooks include name and contact information

3. The Selected Person should: -
 - Be a capable and esteemed Club member
 - Have an interest and appreciation of the game
 - Understand the importance of refereeing within the game
 - Have an interest in the role

To implement the role objectives, the appointee should be familiar with the relevant aspects of the Club and hence by definition should not be an absentee member.

Club Disciplinary Officer

Each club, school and college will be obliged to appoint a Club Disciplinary Officer who would be responsible for disciplinary matters in the club. It was hoped this role would lead to a strong positive culture towards visiting teams, officials and all participants in our game.

To ensure the success of this initiative it is imperative that primarily a suitable person is appointed who understands the role involved and the steps necessary to guarantee its success.

Appropriate guidelines for same are set out below to assist your appointment: -

1. The Role objectives are: -
 - To develop a culture of respect for the game and its participants
 - Encourage positive support for the club's teams
 - To liaise with Referees Association on initiatives to make the club as welcoming as possible
 - To educate club members on the Code of Conduct
 - To report to the Club Sec on any instances of Abuse towards teams or officials
 - To carry out an investigation into any sending off or abuse matter and recommend sanction for those involved
 - Report to the club executive monthly on the club's disciplinary record

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 - Identify potential candidates and discuss the role with them
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Next Steps for Clubs

1. Agree Code of Conduct for the club.
2. Define the roles for your needs. See template attached
3. Advertise the role in the club or approach suitable candidates.
4. Interview for the role, it is essential the individual understands the commitment.
5. Appoint or elect the individual to the role and include on your committee.
6. Arrange upskilling with Leinster Rugby.
7. Devise a reporting mechanism along with KPI's.
8. Review progress monthly.

Match Day Steward

The Role

The Match Day Steward shall to uphold the Code of Conduct. The club shall appoint a Steward who will be empowered by the Leinster Branch of the IRFU to ensure good behaviour by all before, during and after the game.

The Person

The person the club selects as the Match Day Steward should be an individual of standing among club members. They should be well versed in the Code of Conduct and Rugby Values in general. They should be confident and respectful.

The Duties

Before the Game

The Match Day Steward should make themselves known to the referee as early as possible. The referee should introduce them to the visiting team manager and briefly outline his expectations. The Steward should ensure the Technical Zones are clearly defined and point them out to the coaching teams for both sides.

During the Game

The Steward wearing the Hi-Viz Leinster vest should stay adjacent to the Technical Zones and monitor interaction. They should not enter into conversations with the coaching staff or engage spectators about incidents in the game. They are not there as a fourth official. If required, the Steward should ask coaches or supporters to refrain from action contrary to the code of conduct. Failure to take notice of the polite warning would be followed by a "Yellow Card". This should be done discreetly. The Steward should not attempt to enforce any further threats or sanction. If the incident escalates the Steward, when appropriate, should draw the attention of the referee to the matter.

After the Game

The Steward should bring to the attention of the team manager any inappropriate behaviour from their sides coaching team or supporters. Once both sides and officials have entered the dressing rooms the Stewards duties are complete.

Facts & Numbers Referees and Discipline in Leinster

In 2018/2019

- **5,400** Referee Appointments
- **20%** increase on previous season
- **500** additional fixtures

Service to cover :

- **12** Counties
- **70** Clubs
- **125** Schools
- **13** Third Level Colleges
- **18** Inclusion Rugby Teams

215 Leinster Competitions

- **187** Active Referees
- **19** New Referees in 2018/19

Disciplinary Committee Statistics 2018/19

- **93** Disciplinary Cases total
- **63** Adult Cases
- **28** Underage Cases
- **42** Cases of Official Abuse
- **27** from Club Coaches
- **8** from Players
- **7** from Spectators

In 2019/2020 Season...

Every Club should produce
1 New Referee
A Club Referee Culture