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# **CORE VALUES CODES OF CONDUCT**

# INTRODUCTION

The aim of this booklet is to ensure that all members of Blandford Rugby Football Club are aware of the Rugby Union Core Values and the standards which are expected of them as a club member.

Each member will as part of their membership application commit to complying with the Core Values and the Codes of Conduct set out within this booklet. As a club we look to each member to comply with these codes.

Please take time to read the contents of this booklet and we respectfully ask that parents of our younger members take time to explain to them how important these codes are to ensure that the rugby experience for them is enjoyable. The club is proud of the ethos which players and supporters display both on and off the pitch.

## **BLANDFORD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB CORE VALUES MISSION STATEMENT**

Rugby Union's five core values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship, commonly known as TREADS clearly define the Blandford RFC ethos and provides guidance on how all our members should behave with each other, both on and off the field. TREADS represents the very qualities which forge the fellowship and sense of fair play that is so essential to the spirit of the game and our Club's ongoing success.

Blandford RFC believes that Rugby Union is far more than a game and that the enjoyment derived from taking part or being a member of the club is far more than winning (particularly at all costs)

As a club we look to all our members to uphold the Core Values both on and off the pitch. Members are encouraged to actively demonstrate these values and encourage others to do the same.

To assist in this Blandford RFC have produced a booklet for all members detailing how to meet the expectations of the Core Values.

## Players Code

All Club Coaches, Administrative Staff and Parents of Mini & Youth players should encourage all players to:

- Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by all coaches, parents, match officials and administrators in providing the opportunity for them to be able to play rugby and enjoy the rugby environment.
- Understand the values of loyalty and commitment to coaches and fellow team mates.
- Understand that if an individual or group of players feel they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, then they should raise their concerns with Club Officials.
- Take part in rugby because they want to do so, not because they want to please coaches, parents or others.
- Remember that skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important part of the game. Be attentive at all training and coaching sessions.
- Work equally hard for themselves and their fellow team mates, both will then benefit.
- Recognise good play by any players either on their own team or by their opponents.
- Be a good sportsperson – win with dignity, lose with grace. Play to the rules of the game and accept without question, all referee's decisions even if they appear to be incorrect.
- Control their emotions. Verbal or physical abuse of team mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or spectators is not acceptable behaviour.
- Treat all players, as they would be like to be treated themselves. Do not interfere with, bully or take advantage of any player.

## Coaches Code

All Coaches involved with the club are to comply with the Coaches Code set out below:

- Be a positive role model and remember what this implies.
- Respect the decision of match officials even if they appear to be incorrect. (Remember it could be you officiating at the next match.) Ensure that all the players they are responsible for also respecting that decision
- Coaches should ensure that their knowledge and coaching strategies are in line with the current RFU philosophy and are up to date.
- All coaches must ensure that they coach to the rules laid down in the Rugby Continuum and ensure that they keep themselves abreast of any rule changes
- Never allow a player to train or play when injured.
- Provide experiences, which are matched to the players age and ability, as well as their physical and mental development.
- Ensure that all players are coached in a safe environment and that there are adequate first aid facilities available.
- All coaches are to ensure that they do not overplay the best players. Within Blandford RFC Mini and Youth Section it is the policy that all within an age group have the opportunity to play matches.
- Ensure that their age group has a suitable number of adults to supervise all activities undertaken.
- Ensure that players are not exposed to extremes of heat, cold or an unacceptable risk of injury. Coaches of younger players should ensure that their parents/carers are fully briefed on the measures which they should undertake to provide their children with the appropriate clothing

and the reasons why a match or coaching session might be curtailed early.

- Keep winning and losing in perspective – encourage players to behave with dignity in all circumstances. This is particularly important in Mini and Youth games.
- Develop an awareness of nutritional needs as part of an overall education in lifestyle education.
- Recognise that it is illegal for players under the respective legal age limits to smoke or drink alcohol. The legal age limit to purchase tobacco is 18 and the legal limit to drink alcohol is also 18. Coaches should actively discourage both smoking and drinking.
- All coaches are to be familiar with the contents of the Club Policy documentation which is available from the club website.

## Spectators Code

Spectators will be encouraged to:

- Act as positive role models to all players while you are on the sidelines.
- Be familiar with, and abide by the club and RFU Guidelines in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.
- Respect the rules and guidelines set out by the club.

All spectators should:

- Remember the players and especially children play sport for their enjoyment and not that of the spectators or parents.
- Acknowledge good individual and team performance from all players irrespective of the team for whom they play.
- Respect match officials' decisions. Remember – they are volunteers providing an opportunity to play rugby.
- Never verbally abuse players, match officials, fellow spectators or coaches. Such behaviour can create a negative environment for players and their behaviour will often reflect this.
- Acknowledge effort and good performance rather than the “win at all costs” ethic.
- Verbally encourage all players in a positive way. If you do want to shout make sure it is “for” and not “at” the players.
- Encourage all players irrespective of their ability – never ridicule any individual player regardless of the team for whom they play.

## Parents Code

Blandford RFC encourages Parents/Guardians/Carers to:

- Be familiar with the coaching and match programme in order that they can ensure that their child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their availability.
- Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing the coaching sessions in which their child participates.
- Be aware that Blandford RFC has a Duty of Care to ensure that the safety of players and therefore, where appropriate, assist coaches with the supervision of players, particularly where numbers are large and there is a need to transport players to away fixtures.
- Be involved with Blandford RFC activities and share their expertise, qualifications or skills.
- Share concerns, if they have any, with Blandford RFC officials.
- Be familiar with the Blandford RFC Codes of Conduct contained within this document and the Conduct Guidelines set on in the RFU Continuum. In particular be aware that coaches should recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players, and coaches should keep winning and losing in perspective, encouraging players to behave with dignity in all circumstances. Support coaches in instilling these virtues to their children.
- Remember that young people play rugby for their enjoyment – do not force them if they do not want to play.
- Focus on the efforts of the player – not on winning.
- Be realistic about the ability of their child, do not push them towards a level that they are not capable of achieving.



- Provide positive verbal feedback, both in training and during any games.
- Remember that persistent negative messages will adversely affect the players' and referee's performance and attitude.
- Always support Blandford RFC in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
- Remember that all young people learn much by example.
- Always show appreciation of good play from any player from either Blandford RFC or the opposing team.
- Respect any decision made by match officials, even if they appear to be incorrect, and encourage the players to do the same.

## **Good Practice Guidance for Match Officials**

Any member of Blandford RFC who undertakes the role of a match official or a match official appointed by the county RFU is to abide by the Good Practice Guidance for Match Officials set out in the RFU/RFUW Welfare of Young People in Rugby Union.

When refereeing young players all match officials must:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players.
- Provide verbal feedback in a positive way during the game, appreciating the needs of the players.
- Be a positive role model and recognise that safety is paramount.
- Explain decisions – most young players are still learning the rules and correct method of play.
- Never tolerate verbal abuse.

All officials will not:

- Change in the same area as players. Shower with players (if showers are available).
- Administer first aid to any player.
- Allow any player to continue playing if you have any doubts about their fitness.
- Tolerate verbal abuse from any player, coaches or spectators.
- Be alone with young players at any time – if a young player enters the changing room which has been provided as your designated changing room either leave immediately or request that another adult to act as a chaperone



# CODE OF RUGBY

Everyone involved in rugby in England, whether as a player, coach, referee, administrator, parent or spectator is expected to uphold the Core Values of our sport.

**Teamwork · Respect · Enjoyment**  
**Discipline · Sportsmanship**

- Play to win - but not at all cost.
- Win with dignity, lose with grace.
- Observe the Laws and regulations of the game.
- Respect opponents, referees and all participants.
- Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs.
- Value volunteers and paid officials alike.
- Enjoy the game.

**THIS IS  
RUGBY.**