



NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC MINI & JUNIOR RUGBY FAIR PLAY AND CODES OF CONDUCT for Coaches, Players, Parents, Match Officials and Volunteers

In these days of competitive games and a pervading culture of winning at all costs, it is important not to forget the reasons why young people participate in and enjoy the game of Rugby Union.

The idea of “Fair Play” should be a constant reference point for all those involved in the Mini/Midi/Youth rugby at **NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC** as to lose sight of this would be detrimental to everyone.

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC is committed to protecting the welfare and safety of children extremely seriously and wants to encourage all children to have a safe, positive and fun experience in rugby union, whatever their level of involvement. Rugby Union contributes to a healthy lifestyle as well as offering children many opportunities for positive growth, empowerment, achievement, fun and friendship. Whatever their ability **NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC** is committed to giving all children the opportunity to enjoy playing rugby in a secure and protected environment.

The club has therefore produced guides to outline the duties of coaches, parents, players, match officials and volunteers so that the rugby offered at **NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC** provides a safe and stimulating environment for all the young people involved and as such meets RFU requirements.

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC - The Good Parent's Code

Parents have a key role to play by working in partnership with the club to ensure that young people enjoy their involvement in the sport and experience an environment in which they can flourish. In order to achieve these objectives, parents also have a responsibility to ensure that their child is safeguarded while taking part in rugby union activities.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Be familiar with the coaching and training programmes
- Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing sessions in which your child participates
- Be involved with club activities and share your expertise
- Share concerns, if you have them with club officials
- Be familiar with the Good Coach's and Good Player's Code

Your child

- If you are unable to stay with your child during the training session, please ensure that the coach or team manager has up to date contact numbers for you.
- Remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment not yours
- Focus on the young players efforts rather than winning or losing
- Never punish or demean your child for losing or making mistakes
- Be realistic about young players' ability
- Ensure that your child has suitable clothing for the weather conditions of the day
- Ensure your child has the correct footwear, studs and mouthguard (if applicable)
- Ensure that all clothing belonging to your child is marked with their name
- Ensure that your child has suitable refreshments during training and matches
- Be punctual when bringing children to training sessions and/or matches
- Ensure that if your child is not able to take part in a planned match that the team manager is notified as soon as possible
- Never force your child to take part in an activity if they don't want to

Training/Game

- Applaud good performance and efforts by ALL players from both teams regardless of the outcome of the game
- Support the rugby club in their efforts to eradicate loud and abusive behaviour from the game
- Support your child's team without interference, hostility or bias
- Set an example and use appropriate language at all times
- Remember that young people learn by example
- Support officials and discourage unfair play
- Respect decisions made by match officials and encourage the young players to do the same
- Remember you are not permitted on the pitch under any circumstances, during the course of the game, unless requested by the match official
- Appreciate the efforts of coaches and officials and offer help to clear away at the end of training sessions and/or games

Club Volunteers

Please remember that everyone involved with the mini/midi/youth rugby at **NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC** is a volunteer and they give up their time for the enjoyment of your children. Please consider helping either with coaching, administration, catering and social events to aid the smooth running of the club.

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC - The Good Player's Code

All young people should recognise that the volunteers of NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC involved in arranging their coaching/games aim to provide a safe and enjoyable game in which all everyone can develop as an individual, player and as part of a team.

Young players are encouraged to:

- Play for your enjoyment
- Play because you want to, not to please other people
- Always accept the referee/match official's decision
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team and both will benefit
- Be attentive and listen at all training/coaching sessions
- Be a good sport. Applaud all players from your team and the opposition
- Co-operate with your coaches, team manager, team mates and opponents and officials – without them, there will be no coaching and/or games
- Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, match officials and club volunteers in providing them with the opportunity to play the game and enjoy the rugby environment
- Play fair and control your emotions as verbal or physical abuse of ANYONE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE
- Treat everyone as you would like to be treated
- Offer to help to clear away at the end of training sessions and/or games

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC - The Good Coaches Code

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

Coaches should:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching young people. Most learning is achieved through doing
- Be a positive role model – think what this implies – insist on fair play
- Provide positive feedback to your players
- Respect all referees and the decisions they make. Ensure that the players recognise that they must do the same. Verbal abuse is not acceptable and should never occur
- Provide experiences which are matched to the young players ages and abilities, as well as their physical and mental development
- Ensure all youngster are coached in a safe environment with adequate first aid readily to hand
- Avoid the overplaying of the best players by using a squad system which gives everybody a satisfactory amount of playing time
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm
- Never allow a player to train or play when injured
- Ensure good supervision of young players, both on and off the field
- Be aware of and abide by the policies and procedures of the club's Welfare and Child Protection Policy
- Listen to your players and ensure the time they spend with you is a positive experience for them all
- Maintain an up to date attendance register or appoint a team manager to have responsibility for this task
- Have a training session plan worked out in advance of the training session
- Ensure their knowledge and coaching strategies are up to date and in line with RFU philosophy
- Be aware of the club's Welfare and Child Protection Policy and attend a RFU Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Rugby Union course every three years

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC

Match Officials

Volunteers

CODES OF CONDUCT

Match Officials should:

- Do your utmost to ensure the young players enjoy their experience
- Be a positive role model and lead by example
- Keep up to date with refereeing qualifications and practices
- Recognise that the safety of young players is paramount
- Explain your decisions clearly and concisely
- Foul play should not be tolerated
- Emphasise the spirit and ethos of the game
- Take time to speak to coaches after the game

Volunteers should:

- Encourage an environment within the rugby club whereby the opportunity to play rugby is offered to ALL
- Encourage the concept of good sporting partnerships between players, parents and spectators, club coaches, match officials and volunteers
- Involve young people in the decision making processes, where appropriate
- Recognise RFU Policy and Guidelines especially for young people
- Promote the concepts of fair play, respect and enjoyment
- Discourage the 'win at all costs' ethic amongst the club community