

Players Code of Ethics & Conduct

- Play for enjoyment and become representatives of the culture of rugby.
- Respect the "Game of Rugby" and play within the laws of the Game.
- Be a "good sport." Applaud all good play whether by your team or the opposition.
- Maintain your grades in school. Playing rugby is a privilege and schoolwork is a priority.
- Demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship and teamwork. Be humble in victory and courteous in defeat.
- Be respectful of coaches, fellow players, referees, match officials, and spectators.
 - The use of profanity, bullying, overt acts of celebration ("touchdown dances"), etc. are examples of behavior that have no place in rugby.
 - Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not "bully" or take advantage of any player.
 - Refrain from obscene, profane, racist, sexist, hostile, and generally offensive jokes and statements.
 - No taunting and no excessive celebratory displays after scoring or any otherwise positive play.
 - Do not fight. This action will may result in suspension from the club for a period determined by coaches and/or the league disciplinary committee.
- Follow the direction of coaches and keep in mind they are volunteering their own time to make you a better player.
- At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match.
- Attend all practices/games and notify coaches if you are going to be late or absent.
- Make your best effort to be prepared for games and practices wearing the required equipment (e.g., mouthpiece, cleats, rugby shorts, and socks).
- Use or suspected use of controlled substances (specifically alcohol, drugs, vaping, or cigarettes for minors) will not be tolerated and may cause the offending player to be suspended or removed from the team.
- Refrain from addressing or talking back to game officials during the game, only the team captain or your coach can respectfully address the referee, assistant referees, or touch judges.
- Follow all field rules and regulations.
- Respecting the property of others.
- Wear full uniform for team club events - Club Colors Only - Club Socks, Club Shorts, Club Shirt, Club Jersey. You represent a well-respected Club - look the part as a respectable member of Loudoun Rugby.
- Remember you are representing Loudoun Rugby, family, friends, and the Game of Rugby.

Parents/Spectators Code of Ethics & Conduct

Parents are further requested to abide by the following:

- Set an example of decency, manners, and good behavior - and respectfully guide fellow parents if needed.
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- Remember, young people play sports for their enjoyment, not only yours.
- Encourage your child always to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Arrange for players to be at games and practices on time and ensure that coaches are notified in advance of late arrivals and absences.

- Provide positive support and encouragement to all players.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.
- Help young people to work towards skill improvement and especially good sportsmanship.
- Cheer for your team in a positive, supportive manner and set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate, or shout at players or coaches from either team for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning but improvement and learning new skills.
- Do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches, players, or other spectators.
- 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.
- Do not publicly question the match officials' judgments.
- Refrain from making hostile, negative, or abusive remarks about the opposing team or match officials.
- Help whenever possible. This includes setting up the fields and picking up debris after a match, assisting with after-match socials, fundraisers, recruiting events, etc.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for young people.
- Help enforce Club player dress codes - players to wear full uniforms for team club matches and club practice kit for practices – Loudoun Rugby kit only - Club Socks, Club Shorts, Club Shirt, Club Jersey. You represent a well-respected Club - look the part as a respectable member of Loudoun Rugby.

Coaches Code of Ethics & Conduct

- You are a role model and must act as such.
- Maintain all required certifications as set forth by Rugby VA, USA Rugby, and World Rugby and endeavor to increase your level when possible.
- Remember that as a coach of an "age grade team" you are to act in "loco parentis" - meaning act in place of parents - and to that extent your duty of care is more onerous than that of a coach to an adult team. Help guide your players.
- Players' safety is the highest concern and under any circumstance will put a player's physical integrity at risk.
- Focus on teaching the game and values of rugby and play by the letter and spirit of the laws of the game.
- Work on three principles: safety, development of players' athletic abilities, and teamwork.
- Endeavor to assure that all players enjoy similar amount of playing time regardless of athletic abilities.
- Provide balanced direction and feedback to all players during practices and before, during, and after games encouraging and reinforcing positives whenever possible and constructively pointing out mistakes as well as opportunities for improvement.
- 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.
- Make sure all players participate in contact practices or games with the appropriate clothing and equipment (e.g., mouthguards, Rugby goggles, rugby shorts, etc.).
- Respect for the Referee is required by the laws for the players and expected by the club.

- When needed, seek out the referee in a calm, non-confrontational demeanor at the appropriate times to ask about interpretation of a law or to understand a specific call/non-call.
- Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted by other people as hostile or humiliating. Understand that parents and players are watching you and take your lead.
- Ensure players are registered and have provided the documentation and information required by Rugby VA and USA Rugby.
- Ensure that medical first-aid supplies, proper equipment and facilities are available at all times.
- Ensure that members and spectators of the team conduct themselves in accordance with this Code of Conduct while in attendance at games and promptly address any issues with the team member or spectator behaving inappropriately.

Violations to the Code of Ethics & Conduct

Loudoun Rugby reserves the right to deny membership to individuals with a history of conduct violative of the Club's Code of Conduct, reserves the right to terminate the membership of individuals who violate the Club's Code of Conduct, and reserves the right to exclude and or remove individuals, including parents and family of members and spectators, from events and activities including practices and matches for conduct violative of the Code of Ethics & Conduct. The following guidelines will be applied:

- A participant violating the Code of Ethics & Conduct will receive one verbal warning to stop the inappropriate behavior, after which penalties can be issued by the Board.
- Verbal warnings can be issued by Loudoun Rugby coaches, directors, League match officials, and League board members, and other match officials.
- If verbal warning fails to stop the offending behavior, the offending person may be asked to leave the field for the rest of the day.
- All ejections will be considered Code of Conduct violations, and the offending person will be automatically suspended for at least one game by Loudoun Rugby. The League may have a longer sanction based on their guidelines.
- In the event the ejected person from Loudoun Rugby (player, coach, or spectator) refuses to leave the field or area as requested, the referee or match official may stop the match until such time as there is compliance. If the ejected person continues to refuse to leave the field or playing area, the match official or referee may stop the game, Loudoun Rugby will forfeit the match, and the person will be suspended for the remainder of the season from attending any Loudoun Rugby events.
- If a player is ejected, the player or coach may still participate in team practices at the discretion of the Director of Rugby.
- If a player or coach is ejected twice within the same season, they will be suspended from the Club for the remainder of the season without reimbursement of membership fees.
- The Rugby VA Disciplinary Committee may sanction a player or coach if the violation warrants (e.g., fighting, abusing, a game official, etc.). In such cases the offending player or coach will wait and follow the committee's decision.
- If a spectator is ejected for harassing or verbally abusing a game official, the spectator will be suspended for at least one (1) game.

- If a spectator is ejected twice within the same season, they will be suspended from attending any Loudoun Rugby events for the remainder of the season.
- Any player, coach, or spectator physically abusing a match official will be suspended for the remainder of the season.