

Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Union Junior Sports Club - Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct-Principles

It is the aim of our club to provide our members with the best possible environment in which the Junior players can develop their rugby skills.

Northcote Juniors part of Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Union and Sports Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members.

The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators, supporters, referees and parents associated with the club should at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others.

Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with the Junior Chairman.

In order to assist us it is important to set some ground rules with regards to what is acceptable behaviour and what is unacceptable behaviour, whether it is on or off the field. The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and the six core principles:

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Good citizenship

As a member of Northcote Juniors Rugby Club you are expected to abide by the following junior code of conduct:

- All playing members must play within the rules and respect referees and other officials and their decisions.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Players should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Players must wear suitable kit for training and match sessions, as agreed with the coach/team manager and in accordance with club policy.

- Members must pay any fees for subscriptions, training or events promptly.

Coaches' Code of Ethics

Following is the SPARC Coaches' Code of Ethics.

The NZ Rugby is a signatory to the code, and therefore all NZR registered coaches must abide by the Code.

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual as a human being

- Treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin or religion.
- Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each player in order to help each player reach their full potential.

2. Maintain high standards of integrity

- Operate within the rules of your sport and in the spirit of fair play, while encouraging your players to do the same.
- Do not disclose any confidential information relating to players without their written prior consent.

3. Be a positive role model and act in a way that projects a positive image of coaching

- All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Ensure the player's time spent with you is a positive experience.
- Be fair, considerate and honest with players.
- Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle.

4. Professional Responsibilities

- Display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation.
- Display control, courtesy, respect, honesty, dignity and professionalism to all involved within the sphere of rugby – this includes opponents, coaches, referees, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators.
- Encourage your players to demonstrate the same qualities.
- Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions.
- Refrain from criticism of referees, other coaches and players.

5. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your players

- Seek continual improvement through ongoing coach education, and other personal and professional development opportunities.
- Provide players with planned and structured training programmes appropriate to their needs and goals.
- Seek advice and assistance from professionals when additional expertise is required.
- Maintain appropriate records.

6. Provide a safe environment for training and competition

- Adopt appropriate risk management strategies to ensure that the training and/or competition environment is safe.
- Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
- Ensure equipment, rules, training and the environment are appropriate for the age, physical and emotional maturity, experience and ability of the players.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players.
- Allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.
- Encourage players to seek medical advice when required.
- Provide a modified training programme where appropriate.
- Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured players as you would to healthy players.

7. Protect your players from any form of personal abuse

- Refrain from any form of verbal, physical or emotional abuse towards your players.
- Refrain from any form of sexual or racial harassment, whether verbal or physical.
- Do not harass, abuse or discriminate against players on the basis of their sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religious or ethical beliefs, race, colour, ethnic origins, employment status, disability or distinguishing characteristics.
- Any physical contact with players should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.

- Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards players or officials from other sources while in your care.

Coaches should:

- Be treated with respect and openness
- Have access to self-improvement opportunities
- Be matched with a level of coaching appropriate to their ability

Code of Conduct for all Parents / Carers

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with referees or officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept referees' and officials' judgements.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.

Complaint Resolution

Any complaints received will be investigated promptly, impartially and transparently.

Alleged breaches this code of conduct could lead to suspension from the club. If serious, expulsion from the Club could be considered, but this would only be in the most severe cases.