

# Minehead Barbarians Rugby Football Club

**Adopted Policy:** Codes of Conduct

**Date of Adoption:** April 2016

**Review Date:** April 2017

**Responsible Officer:** Chair Minis & Juniors

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## **RFU Core Values**

Rugby's values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship are what makes the game special for those who enjoy the environment and culture they create. They define the game and have been adopted by Minehead Barbarians RFC.

### **Teamwork**

- Teamwork is essential to our sport.
- We welcome all new team members and include all because working as a team enriches our lives.
- We play selflessly: working for the team, not for ourselves alone, both on and off the field.
- We take pride in our team, rely on one another and understand that each player has a part to play.
- We speak out if our team or sport is threatened by inappropriate words or actions.

### **Respect**

- Mutual respect forms the basis of our sport.
- We hold in high esteem our sport, its values and traditions and earn the respect of others in the way we behave.
- We respect our match officials and accept our decisions.
- We respect opposition players and supporters.
- We value our coaches and those who run our clubs and treat clubhouses with consideration.

### **Enjoyment**

- Enjoyment is the reason we play and support rugby union.
- We encourage players to enjoy training and playing.
- We use our sport to adopt a healthy lifestyle and build life skills.
- We safeguard our young players and help them have fun.
- We enjoy being part of a team and part of the rugby family.

### **Discipline**

- Strong discipline underpins our sport.
- We ensure that our sport is one of controlled physical endeavour and that we are honest and fair.
- We obey the laws of the game which ensure an inclusive and exciting global sport.
- We support our disciplinary system, which protects our sport and upholds its values.
- We observe the sport's laws and regulations and report serious breaches.

### **Sportsmanship**

- Sportsmanship is the foundation upon which rugby union is built.
- We uphold the rugby tradition of camaraderie with teammates and opposition.
- We observe fair play both on and off the pitch and are generous in victory and dignified in defeat.
- We play to win but not at all costs and recognise both endeavour and achievement.
- We ensure that the wellbeing and development of individual players is central to all rugby activity.

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## **What this means for MBRFC as a Club**

As a Club, we acknowledge that we shall use our best endeavours to conduct ourselves at all levels and at all times in a disciplined manner, observing fair play according to the Laws of the Game and a sporting spirit.

To maintain the ethos of the game this includes but is not limited by the following :

- a fair and equitable treatment for all our rugby members which shall extend to all members of our opponent clubs.
- a fostering of excellence in our style of play, club relationships and integration into the local community
- seeking to arrange to play both home and away fixtures in equivalent proportions
- honouring all our fixtures, which may entail using our good relations with neighbouring clubs to arrange to pooling of players without enticement to leave their existing clubs.
- being equitable in our arrangements with the clubs contributing to the pool, by providing players to and utilising players from the pool in equal proportion.
- in the eventuality of not being able to raise a full side even with the pooled players, to communicate with our opponents in good time and agree to play the game by sharing the available players.
- ensuring that all our club members and associated spectators respect the roles of the officials appointed to the game and being intolerant of any abuse or physical harm to the officials or their property.
- extending a welcome to our club to all officials, opposition players and supporters and encouraging them to join in the after match companionship of our game.
- setting an example to young players by refraining from dissent of decisions by the game officials and the use of language of a profane obscene or expletive nature.
- communicating with the Member Clubs and the Management Committees of the Union in a prompt and efficient manner to ensure the effective and timely management of the organisation of Minehead Barbarians RFC within the Somerset Rugby Football Union.

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## **What this means for Coaches at MBRFC**

Coaches play a vital role in championing and demonstrating the RFU Values to all players and supporters

Coaches of players should;

- recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players.
  - understand that most learning is achieved through doing.
  - appreciate the needs of the players before the needs of the sport.
  - be a positive role model – bring the RFU Values to life through your example.
  - keep winning and losing in perspective – encourage players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
  - respect all referees and the decisions they make, even if they appear to make a mistake, (remember it could be you refereeing next week) and ensure that the players recognise that they must do the same.
  - provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner to all players, both during coaching sessions and matches.
  - Provide rugby experiences which are matched to the players' ages and abilities, as well as their physical and behavioural development.
  - ensure all players 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.
  - never allow a player to train or play when injured.
  - ensure good supervision of players, both on and off the field.
  - recognise that players should never be exposed to extremes of heat, cold or unacceptable risk of injury.
  - develop an awareness of nutrition as part of an overall education in lifestyle management.
  - recognise that it is illegal for players under 18 to drink alcohol or for those under 16 to smoke. Coaches should actively discourage both.
  - ensure that their knowledge and coaching strategies are up to date and in line with RFU philosophy.
  - be aware of, and abide by, the RFU recommended procedures for taking young people on residential tours at home and abroad.
  - be aware of and abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the Policy and Procedures for the Welfare of Young People in Rugby Union.
  - display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
  - coach to the rules laid down in the Rugby Continuum and keep themselves updated on rule changes.
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## What this means for players at MBRFC

Players are expected to:

- recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, match officials and administration in providing the opportunity to play the game and enjoy the rugby environment.
  - understand the values of loyalty and commitment to adults, team mates and the Club.
  - recognise that every player has a right to expect their involvement in rugby to be safe and free from all types of abuse.
  - understand that if an individual or group of players feel they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, then they should tell an adult either at the Club or School or outside of the game.
  - play because they want to do so, not to please coaches or parents.
  - remember that skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important parts of the game.
  - be attentive and well behaved at all training and coaching sessions.
  - work equally hard for themselves and their team – both will then benefit.
  - recognise good play by all players on their team and by their opponents.
  - be a sportsman – win with dignity, lose with grace.
  - play to the iRB Laws of the Game and accept, without question, all referees' decisions even if they appear to make a mistake.
  - control their emotions. Verbal, physical or psychological abuse of team mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or spectators will not be tolerated.
  - treat all players, as they would like to be treated themselves. Do not interfere with, bully or take advantage of any player.
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## What this means for parents and guardians of players at MBRFC

Parents and guardians should:

- be familiar with the coaching and training programme in order that they can ensure their child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their availability.
  - be familiar with the coaching methods used by observing the coaching and training sessions in which their child participates.
  - be aware that the Club has a duty of care to ensure the safety of players and therefore, where appropriate, assist coaches with the supervision of the players, particularly where numbers are large and there is a need to transport players to away games.
  - be involved with Club activities and share their expertise.
  - share concerns, if they have them, with Club officials.
  - be familiar with what is expected of Coaches. In particular, be aware that:
    - "coaches should recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players"
    - "coaches should keep winning and losing in perspective – encourage players to behave with dignity in all circumstance"
  - support coaches in installing these values.
  - remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment not that of their parents.
  - encourage young people to play – do not force them.
  - focus on the players' efforts, rather than winning or losing.
  - be realistic about the players' abilities; do not push them towards a level they are not capable of achieving.
  - provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
  - remember that persistent, negative messages will adversely affect the players' and referee's performance and attitude.
  - always support the Club in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
  - remember young people learn much by example.
  - always show appreciation of good play by all players both from their own Club and the opposition.
  - respect decisions made by the match officials, even if they appear to be a mistake, and encourage players to do likewise.
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## What this means for spectators at MBRFC

Spectators should:

- act as positive role models to all players.
- be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidelines in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.
- respect guidance from the Club with regard to spectator behaviour.
- remember children play sport primarily for their own enjoyment, not for that of spectators.
- acknowledge good individual and team performance from all players irrespective of the team in which they play.
- respect match officials' decisions, even if they appear to be a mistake – remember, they are volunteers providing an opportunity for players to play rugby.
- never verbally abuse players, coaches, match officials or fellow spectators: such behaviour can create a negative environment for players and their behaviour will often reflect this.
- acknowledge effort and good performance rather than 'to win at all costs'.
- verbally encourage all players in a positive manner, shouting 'for' not 'at' the players.
- encourage all players irrespective of their ability – never ridicule any individual player, regardless of the team in which they play