

**TEAMWORK  
RESPECT  
ENJOYMENT  
DISCIPLINE  
SPORTSMANSHIP**

**Remember rugby's  
core values**

MIDDLESEX RUGBY CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDE



**Middlesex  
RUGBY**

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Middlesex Rugby is committed to helping its clubs promote the Core Values of rugby union as defined by the RFU, and to strengthening the positive image of the game

A key element of this is for all those involved in delivering mini and junior rugby to put the children's development, wellbeing and enjoyment at the heart of all they do and the 'TREDS' Code of Conduct has been developed to help achieve this. TREDS stands for:

**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.

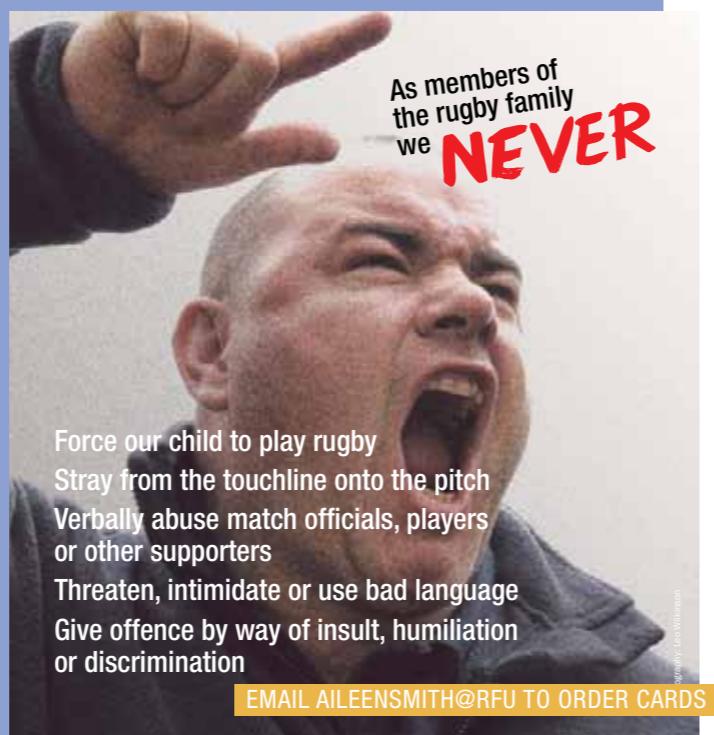
**RESPECT** forms the basis of our sport. We hold in high esteem our sport, its values and traditions and earn the respect of others in the way we behave. We respect our match officials and accept their decisions. We respect opposition players and supporters. We value our coaches and those who run our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

**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** 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 game. 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.



Support positively and applaud good play  
Respect officials and opposition players  
Remember that children are playing to have fun  
Behave as good role models on the touchline  
Congratulate the opposition and make their supporters welcome



Force our child to play rugby  
Stray from the touchline onto the pitch  
Verbally abuse match officials, players or other supporters  
Threaten, intimidate or use bad language  
Give offence by way of insult, humiliation or discrimination

EMAIL AILEENSMITH@RFU TO ORDER CARDS

## TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

- Teamwork is essential to our sport. We believe the only way to succeed is by working together.
- Respect forms the basis of our sport. We believe every person on our team has something to contribute.
- Enjoyment is the reason we play and support rugby union. We believe rugby is fun and being passionate and positive are the keys to great performance.
- Discipline underpins our sport. We believe it takes strength of character and total focus to deliver.
- Sportsmanship is the foundation rugby union is based upon. We believe in bringing fairness and integrity to our organisation by living our values.

**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.

As young players we are taught to follow the Core Values of rugby and it is important to ensure that we continue to follow these values as players, volunteers, coaches, referees, spectators and parents. By following the Core Values we agree to:

- Respect our match officials and accept their decisions
- Respect opposition players and supporters
- Value our coaches and those who run our clubs
- Respect our referees, they are in charge of the game and give up their time so that we can play. They are volunteers and do their best to make sure that we are safe and having fun
- Value our coaches and respect players from the opposition, their coaches and supporters
- Observe fair play both on and off the pitch
- Be generous in victory and dignified in defeat
- Play rugby because we enjoy it. Enjoyment is what our game is about
- Ensure that our game is not spoilt by the bad behaviour of adults: parents, coaches or spectators

Touchline behaviour is very important to the game of rugby union. Inappropriate behaviour from parents, supporters and coaches can have a seriously negative impact on the sport and the quality of experience enjoyed by the players.

It is the duty of every club to ensure that its players enjoy the game and to ensure that referees and officials are not verbally or physically abused. Clubs should ensure that members are provided with Code of Conduct cards. These can be the standard RFU Code of Conduct cards (left), or a club can define its own Code of Conduct based on the examples provided here.

## Good touchline behaviour

### Club

- Ensure all your members, volunteers and supporters are aware of the RFU Core Values and your club's Code of Conduct
- Introduce a Touchline Manager for all games at all levels. The Touchline Manager is responsible for ensuring that club Code of Conduct is adhered to and will intervene if there is inappropriate touchline behaviour
- Ask your Rugby Development Officer (RDO) for help if you are experiencing continued inappropriate touchline behaviour
- For mini rugby, look at introducing the RFU's Kids First Rugby initiative. More details can be found at [www.rfu.com/ruckley](http://www.rfu.com/ruckley)
- Promote the RFU Core Values in your clubhouse and on letterhead/posters/flyers etc
- Have your Code of Conduct visible for all visitors to see and understand when they enter the clubhouse
- Meet and greet your visiting teams, make sure they know where the changing rooms are, which pitch they are playing on, introduce them to the referee, give them details of after match hospitality

### Players

- Play for the fun of the game, not just to please your parents or coach
- Play by the laws of the game
- Do not argue with the referee's decision
- Control your temper
- It is a 'team' game! It is very rewarding to play rugby with your mates. Don't try and grab all the glory yourself
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated
- Don't show off, bully or take unfair advantage of any players - it's not part of rugby
- Remember the game is about having fun, improving your skills, making friends and feeling good about yourself and team mates
- If you lose, accept it with good grace and try harder next time
- Listen to your coaches and referees, work with teammates. Without them and your opponents, you cannot play!

# Good touchline behaviour cont....

## Coaches

- Don't overload young players with demands, technical information and tactics - remember they are children and they are playing rugby for fun
- Don't overplay the better players - include everyone! Ensure all players get at least 20 minutes playing time per game
- Think about how you are going to use your players for the whole game utilising the rolling substitutions allowed, rather than just a straight substitution towards the end of the game
- Young players develop at different times and in different ways - make allowances for their physical, emotional and mental maturity and development
- Winning isn't everything- teach your players to enjoy taking part and performing to the best of their ability. Encourage each player to reach his or her potential
- Never abuse, yell, criticise or ridicule children for making mistakes or losing a game
- Be organised - establish a structure for the season, prepare a coaching plan for each session, have the appropriate kit. Above all, communicate to players, parents and fellow coaches to set expectations
- Make sure players develop an understanding of the laws of the game, that they respect opponents, teammates, coaches and officials
- Never question an official's judgement or honesty
- Ensure players and parents behaviour is appropriate and in keeping with the spirit of the game and the expectations of the club

## Parents

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in a game of rugby
- Children play rugby for their enjoyment, not yours
- Encourage your child to play by the laws of the game
- Teach your child that playing well and fairly is more important than winning
- Never ridicule or yell at your child for making mistakes. Support and encourage your child. Console them for losing, but encourage them to try harder next time
- Remember children learn best by example. Applaud good play by both sides
- Do not question a referee or a linesman's judgement or their honesty. There is no place for 'touchline rage' in rugby
- Support all efforts to remove verbal or physical abuse from rugby. Report anything your Club Safeguarding Officer or one of the club's committee
- Help your club function properly by turning up on time with the appropriate kit. Be prepared to help out if asked
- Value the importance of the volunteer coaches. They give up their time to provide recreation for your child. Support their decision when your child has not been selected for a game. If you have issues with the way a coach is performing, talk to them first. Refer any issues to the appropriate representative at the club

For more information about touchline behaviour visit:

[www.rfu.com/thegame/corevalues/touchlinebehaviour](http://www.rfu.com/thegame/corevalues/touchlinebehaviour)

or contact Peter Baveystock, Middlesex Rugby Community Rugby Chairman

email: [peter.baveystock@middlesexrugby.com](mailto:peter.baveystock@middlesexrugby.com) or tel: 07801 664557

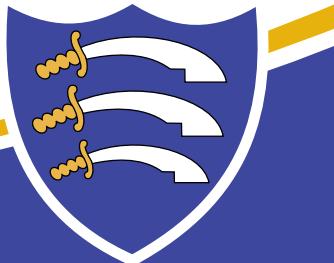
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