

Coach Code of Conduct

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Code of Conduct

The code of conduct is a Coaching Section Policy to which all coaches MUST ADHERE.

Humanity

The RFL affirms its commitment to the equal treatment of all and will not tolerate discrimination on the grounds of age, race, ethnicity, gender, special needs, including learning and physical disabilities, class or social background, religious beliefs or faith, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, colour or political persuasion.

Relationships

The good Rugby League Coach is concerned with:

- The safety, well being and protection of all individuals in their charge, ensuring that all training and playing demands are not detrimental to the social, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of the individual.
- Encouraging independence through guiding performers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance within training and competition.
- Ensuring their behaviour is not being misconstrued or open to allegations of favouritism, misconduct or impropriety, particularly where physical contact between coach and performer is necessary within coaching practice.
- Ensuring performers and relevant people are aware of their qualifications and experience
- Respecting the rights of performers to choose to consent or decline to participate within coaching or playing situations.
- Refraining from public criticism of other coaches, - the definition of public in this instance means criticism expressed outside of the appropriate reporting process in place should concerns about practice arise.

Integrity

The good Rugby League Coach:

- Abides by the rules of Rugby League
- Follows fair play and ethical guidelines
- Ensures all practices are suitable and relevant dependant on age, maturity, experience and ability of performers
- Promotes the prevention and education of the misuse of performance enhancing and illegal substances
- Coaches must accurately present and evidence, upon request, details of their training qualifications and services.
- Is committed to continually improving their practice through training and learning opportunities
- Coaches claiming an affiliation, sponsorship or accreditation with any organization should do so in a truthful and accurate manner.
- All coaches must declare, to the appropriate body, any criminal convictions and submit to safeguarding checks as required.

Confidentiality

The coach and performer must reach agreement about what is to be regarded as confidential information.

Confidentiality does not necessarily include disclosure of information to persons who can be judged to have a right to know. For example:

- Evaluation for selection purposes
- Recommendations for employment
- In matters of disciplinary within the sport
- In matters of disciplinary action by a sport organisation against one of its members
- Legal and medical requirements
- Recommendations to parents/family where the health and safety of performers might be at risk
- In pursuit of action to protect children and young persons from abuse

Personal Standards

Rugby League Coaches within the coaching/playing environment must not attempt to exert undue influences and pressures in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.

Coaches must display high personal standards that project a favourable image of Rugby League including:

- Good personal appearance that projects an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency
- Coaches should never smoke when in the coaching environment

Coaches should refrain from drinking prior to or, whilst performing, any role in Rugby League or whilst in the presence of young participants.

Competence

- All coaches must be appropriately qualified as per the requirements of the Coaching Section.
- Coaches should regularly seek ways of increasing their personal and professional development.
- Coaches must be receptive to employing systems of evaluation that include self evaluation and also external evaluation in an effort to assess the effectiveness of their work.

Coaches must be able to recognise and accept when to refer or recommend performers to other coaches or structures. It is the coach's responsibility as far as possible to:

- Verify the competence of the performer
- Verify the competence and integrity of any other persons or structure to whom they refer the performer

Safety

Within the limits of their control coaches have a responsibility to:

- Establish a safe working environment
- Ensure as far as possible the safety of the players with whom they work
- Safeguard and protect children from harm and abuse
- Fully prepare their players for the activities and make them aware of their personal responsibility in terms of safety
- Ensure all activities undertaken are appropriate for stage of development, experience and ability of the performers and in keeping with the approved practices as determined by the National Governing Body/Rugby League Coaching Section
- Communicate and co-ordinate with registered medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their performers' medical and psychological problems.

Complaints Procedure

Any individual or organisation wishing to make a complaint against a Rugby League Coach within the context of this code should follow the procedure below:

Report the matter to the employer of the sports coach and to the relevant Rugby League Governing Body responsible for that area of the game. NB employer in this instance refers to the organisation who commissioned the coach to do the coaching whether this is paid or unpaid employment

Any complaints where there are potentially child protection concerns should be responded to in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Rugby League Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy

Coaching

- Children play for fun and enjoyment
- Be reasonable in your demands on children's time, energy and enthusiasm – remember they too have other interests.
- Never ridicule or shout at a child for making mistakes at training or during games
- Avoid over-playing talented players. The average players deserve equal time and attention; time should be afforded to all
- Always group players according to age, height, skill, and physical maturity whenever possible
- Follow the advice of medical personnel when there are any concerns about a player being fit to participate
- Teach your players the rules of the game
- Teach children to respect the judgement of officials
- The successful Coach invests more in the well-being and interests of players than in their own win-loss record.

Officiating

- Sportsmanship and fair play are not a set of rules – they are a code of living
- Condemn gamesmanship and emphasise respect for fair play
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when dealing with all decisions during a game
- Use sound judgment to ensure that the spirit of the game is not lost
- Compliment both teams on good play when such praise is deserved

Administrating

- Strive for competent levels of planning and communication
- Make sure that venues and facilities meet the needs of the children
- Ensure that all activities are supervised and appropriate for the players
- Seek support from others with appropriate skills where necessary