

The Expectations of Behaviour Guidelines are a simple outline for players, teachers, coaches and parents to ensure everyone is given the opportunity to enjoy the game to the maximum level. Rugby has always been a game that prides itself on fair play and enjoyment for all, so please adhere to these guidelines to ensure this continues.

For further information, please go to www.rugbyaustralia.com.au/runningrugby/PolicyRegister.aspx

These guidelines have been developed to:

- Maintain the elements of enjoyment and satisfaction in Junior and School Rugby.
- Make adults aware that young people play to satisfy them and not necessarily to satisfy adults or members of their own peer group.
- Improve the physical fitness of youth by making participation in Rugby attractive, safe and enjoyable for all young people.
- Constantly remind Administrators, Coaches, Teachers, Referees and Parents that Rugby must be administered, taught and provided, for the good of those young people who wish to play the game. It's their game!

Players:

- Play for the “enjoyment”, not just to please your parents or coach/teacher.
- Play by the laws of the game of Rugby.
- Never argue with the referee’s decisions. Let your captain or coach/teacher ask any questions.
- Control your temper - no “mouthing off”.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team- your team’s performance will benefit & so will your own.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good play, whether by your team or by your opponent.
- Shake hands with all the opposing team at the conclusion of the match, and clap them off in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- Treat all players’ as you would like yourself to be treated. Don’t interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin or religion.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
- Co-operate with your coach, teacher, teammates, referee and opponents, for without them you don’t have a game.

Coaches /Teachers:

- Have the responsibility for your team and its supporters. EXERCISE IT!
- Be reasonable in your demands on the young player’s time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests and demands on their time.
- Teach your players the Laws of the game are mutual agreements that no one should ever evade or break.
- Ensure that all players get a game. The ‘just average’ players need and deserve equal time.
- Remember that young people play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as, the judgement of referees and opposing coaches.
- Remember that young people need a coach/teacher they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching/teaching principles and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Encourage young people to develop basic skills and avoid over-specialisation in positional play during their formative years.
- Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship, just as you would in teaching basic skills.
- Ensure that efforts for both skill improvement and good sportsmanship are rewarded by praise.
- INSIST ON FAIR PLAY, do not tolerate foul play, fighting or foul language. Be prepared to replace an offending player.
- Discourage excessive talk on the pitch.
- INSIST on a disciplined approach by players and mean what you say.

Parents:

- Don’t force an unwilling youngster to participate in Rugby- remember, young people are involved in Rugby for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your child always to play by the laws.
- Teach young children that honest effort is as important as victory
- Turn defeat into victory by helping young people work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that young people learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Do not publicly question the referee’s judgement and never his/her honesty.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from Junior and Schools Rugby.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches, teachers, managers and referees. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your children.

Spectators:

- Remember that young people play organised sport for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you and they are not miniature Wallabies.
- Be on your best behaviour. Don't use profane language or harass players, coaches, teachers or referees.
- Applaud good play by your own team and the opposition team.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no games.
- Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during the game.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
- Respect the referee's decisions & do not, under any circumstance, approach a referee during or after a game.
- Encourage players to play according to the laws.
- SLEDGING: THIS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED in any shape or form. Players and referees are NOT fair game.

Referee:

- Ensure that 'over-refereeing' of the game does not lose the 'spirit of the game' for young people.
- Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Compliment both teams on their good play whenever such praise is deserved.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous.
- Condemn the deliberate 'good foul' as being unsportsmanlike, thus retaining respect for fair play.
- Publicly encourage law changes that will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound refereeing principles and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Avoid comment on competition rules, only deal with the Laws of the Game.

Manager:

- Encourage parents to take an active interest in the Team.
- Encourage parents and supporters to talk to opposition spectators.
- Encourage supporters to praise good play by both teams.
- Discourage supporters from excessive barracking.
- Provide administrative assistance to the Coach/Teacher.
- Be fully informed of Rugby requirements and matters affecting your team.
- Look after injured players.
- Check eligibility of players for your team.
- If a member of the team is ordered off by the referee, see that the player attends the judicial committee hearing as required and accompany him to the meeting.
- Registration of players.
- Make sure players; parents and official are informed of all functions, social and otherwise.
- Attend coaching and other meetings where coach is unable to attend.
- Insist on an appropriate standard of team behaviour both on and off the field.
- Set an example in terms of behaviour.