



Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Spectators

Introduction

Everyone involved in rugby league, at all levels of the game, has a responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment for the game to take place.

As a spectator, your conduct when attending a game of rugby league can have a significant impact on the players and match officials taking part in the game and can also be a key influence on the standards of behaviour amongst other spectators. It is crucial therefore that when attending a game you take responsibility for your actions and ensure that you not only treat others appropriately, but also respect the spirit, ethos and traditions of rugby league itself.

Parents, carers and other spectators can, in particular, have a huge influence on children and young people's enjoyment and success in rugby league. All children and young people play rugby league because, first and foremost, they love the game - it's fun! It is important to remember, however, that no matter how good they become at rugby league, positive encouragement from parents, carers and spectators will increase their:

- Enjoyment of the game
- Sense of personal achievement
- Self-esteem
- Enthusiasm to improve their skills and techniques.

It is essential therefore that parents, carers and spectators contribute towards a positive environment in which rugby league can be enjoyed by everyone and avoid the negative impact that can arise from aggressive or over-enthusiastic touchline pressure. Remember, participation in rugby league for

children, young people and amateur players is a time to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Winning isn't everything.

The Rugby Football League's "Respect" programme recognises the big responsibility that parents, carers and spectators have in eradicating touchline pressure and abuse by asking you to commit, and sign up, to a Code of Conduct requiring good standards of behaviour to be kept and maintained at all times.

Parents and carers also have a responsibility for their children's behaviour and to encourage high standards of conduct both on and off the field.

Wigan St. Patricks ARLFC fully supports the RFL's "Respect" programme to ensure that rugby league can be enjoyed by players, officials, coaches, parents, carers and spectators alike in a safe and positive environment and asks that you play your part in this by agreeing and signing up to the following Code of Conduct for parents, carers and spectators.

The Code of Conduct

As a Spectator, I agree that I will:

- Applaud effort and good play from both teams, as well as success
- Encourage the players to play by the rules of the game and to respect the opposition, the referee and match officials and set a good example by doing so myself
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake and instead respect and applaud their efforts.
- Remember that the players are taking part in rugby league for their own enjoyment, not that of the spectators, and recognise that they are not professionals.
- Condemn all violent or unlawful acts or behaviour, whether by players, coaches, officials, parents or other spectators
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, sexist, racist or abusive language or aggressive behaviour, or jeering, taunting or intimidation of the opposition, their supporters or the match officials.

- Recognise that verbal abuse of players, coaches or match officials, in whatever form, is never acceptable at any time.
- Treat the match officials and the players, coaches and Club officials of both teams with respect and remember that, without them, we would not have a game.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions and avoid complaining or arguing about decisions during or after a game
- Follow the directions of the Touchline Manager as well as the other matchday officials at all times
- Always remain outside the field of play
- Never arrive at a game under the influence of alcohol or bring alcohol to a game. I will only consume alcohol at a game if this is available at the ground and then only in the designated licensed areas.

Additionally, as a Parent or Carer, I agree that I will:

- Remember that children and young people play rugby league for their own enjoyment, not that of parents, carers or spectators
- Provide positive support to my child's involvement in rugby league and encourage them to enjoy the experience and to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour
- Understand that rugby league is part of a child's whole life experience and that the benefits of involvement go far beyond the final outcome of the game
- Never force an unwilling or reluctant child to take part in the game
- Let the coaches do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage my child to play by the rules and to respect the opposition, the referee and the match officials

- Insist on fair and disciplined play from my child and not tolerate foul play, offensive or abusive language or behaviour, arguing with the match officials or conduct that may bring the team or the Club into disrepute
- Educate my child to understand that effort and teamwork are just as important as winning and to accept the outcome of each game without undue disappointment
- Participate in positive cheering to encourage all of the players in the team
- Avoid criticising or shouting at my child for losing or for making a mistake - mistakes are part of learning
- Educate my child to treat everyone equally, regardless of their gender, race, ethnic or national origin, cultural background, age, ability or disability and will support the Club in eradicating verbal, racist and physical abuse from rugby league
- Recognise the contribution made to the Club and to my child's education and enjoyment of rugby league by the Club coaches, officials and volunteers, all of whom give up their time and energy freely to promote the game and to provide my child with the best training and support they possibly can
- Be a role model for my child by setting a good example and recognising and promoting fair play and good performance from both teams

I understand that if I do not follow this Code of Conduct, any or all of the following actions may be taken by the Club, the League, BARLA or the RFL.

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning by a Club official
- Required to meet with the Club Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the Club Committee
- Required to undertake an RFL education course
- Required by the Club to leave the match venue

- Requested by the Club not to attend any of its future games
- Have my Club membership suspended or removed
- Required to leave the Club along with my child and other members of my family

In addition:

- The League or the RFL may impose a fine and/or suspension against the Club

Signed:

Name (print):

Child's Team (where appropriate):

Date: