



Code of Conduct for Coaches and Team Managers

Introduction

We all have a responsibility to promote the highest standards of behaviour in rugby league.

The behaviour of over-competitive parents, spectators and coaches has been identified as one of the single most significant concerns in the game. This includes both the abuse of match officials and unacceptable behaviour on the touchline.

Coaches, in particular, have a key role in the establishment of ethics in rugby league and, as a coach, you need to be aware that almost all of your everyday decisions and choices of action, as well as your strategic targets, will have ethical implications. Your concept of ethics and your attitude in general will particularly affect the behaviour of the players under your supervision and a high degree of responsibility is therefore required from you as a coach in the conduct you display, especially where you are involved in coaching young people.

The health, safety, welfare and moral education of the players under your supervision must be a first priority, even above the achievement or the reputation of the team, the Club, or yourself as a coach. Therefore, while it is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches, as a Wigan St. Patricks ARLFC coach you need to disassociate yourself from a "win at all costs" attitude.

The Code of Conduct

As a coach or team manager, you will have a hugely important role in ensuring the success of the RFL's "Respect" programme, as you will not only be responsible for your own behaviour but will also have an influence on the behaviour of others. On a match day, in particular, you will be expected to work with your players, parents and other spectators to allow the match officials to manage the game in the best way possible.

Wigan St. Patricks ARLFC expects you to play your part in this by agreeing and signing up to the Code of Conduct for Coaches and Team Managers set out below, and to observe this in everything you do.

On and off the field, I will:

- Conduct myself at all times and in all situations in a manner that demonstrates leadership, respect for the game of rugby league and respect for all those involved in the game, particularly players, coaches, managers, officials, supporters, parents, referees, match officials and the media
- Display and promote fair play and high standards of conduct and be a role model for players, parents and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game and actively discourage foul play and/or unsporting behaviour
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Always respect the match officials' decisions and encourage my players to respect and accept the judgement of the match officials at all times
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Keep up to date with current coaching methods and work to maintain and/or improve my level of coaching accreditation
- Attend all Club Coaches meetings whenever possible

- Make a personal commitment to maintain an accurate knowledge of the laws and rules of the game
- Abide at all times with the RFL's Coach Code of Conduct

When working with players, I will:

- Place the health, well-being, safety and welfare of each player above everything else, including winning
- Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me
- Ensure the parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Create an environment that facilitates the development of each player, giving suitable opportunities for each individual to improve
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance and to recognise that honest effort and competing to the best of their ability is just as important as winning
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player and build their self-esteem
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Ensure that my coaching reflects the level of competition and disassociate myself from a "win at all costs" attitude
- Seek to maximise the participation and enjoyment of each of my players and treat all players as equal, regardless of their talent or ability, avoiding any tendency to overuse the more talented players
- Ensure that all of the activities I organise are appropriate to the players' age, maturity and level of ability
- Encourage young players in particular to recognise that there is a big gap between their level of play and the professional game and coach them accordingly

- Co-operate fully with all others who have a specialist role in the Club or in the game (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists and welfare officers) in the best interests of each player
- Show concern and caution at all times towards sick or injured players and follow strictly the advice of doctors and/or physiotherapists in the treatment of players and in determining whether an injured player is fit to recommence training or playing
- Maintain appropriate working relationships with players at all times and refrain from exercising any undue influence, of whatever nature, in my relationship with players and/or their parents or carers for my own personal benefit or reward

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:

- Required to meet with the Club Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the Club Committee
- Required to be monitored by another Club coach
- Required to attend an RFL education course
- Suspended by the Club from coaching any of its teams or from attending matches
- Fined or suspended by the League, BARLA or the RFL
- Required to leave or be dismissed by the Club

In addition:

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

Signed:

Name (print):

Team:

Date: