



YASS RUGBY UNION CLUB



Code of Conduct

The Yass Rugby Union Club has adopted the following Code of Conduct for all players, coaches, officials and supporters. The code should be read in conjunction with the *Rugby Australia Code of Conduct* and the *Respect Rugby* program which, in association with *Play by the Rules*, is a proactive initiative with the aim of upholding the values, behaviours and mandatory practices of Rugby Union.

This Code is designed with the following in mind:

- The game is played for the enjoyment of players with sportsmanship emphasised at all times.
- To improve the physical fitness of players through encouraging participation in Rugby by making it attractive, safe and enjoyable for all people.
- To make people aware that players are involved to satisfy themselves and not to satisfy spectators or members of their own peer group.
- To remind administrators, coaches and spectators that rugby must be administered, taught and provided for the good of those players who wish to play the game. It is their game.
- Rugby provides the opportunity to meet new people and establish life-long friendships.
- Basic skills and the laws of Rugby shall be imparted to all.

GENERAL

A member, coach, player or official shall not at any time act in a manner detrimental towards the Yass Rugby Union Club, the game or the spirit of rugby union.

The Yass Rugby Union Club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that Club players, officials, and supporters do not act in a manner detrimental towards the Club, the game or the spirit of rugby union.

During the course of or after a match under the jurisdiction of the ACTRU, a Club member, player, coach, official, supporter or any other person associated with an ACTRU Club, shall not abuse or address a referee or a touch judge in insulting terms, nor act in an intimidating manner towards a referee or a touch judge.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Members who breach the Yass Rugby Union Club Code of Conduct may be contacted at any time by a committee member and asked to attend a special committee meeting where disciplinary action may be taken.

PLAYERS' CODE

Play for the enjoyment, not just to please your peers or coach.

You will be encouraged to play hard and strive to win within the laws of the game.

Team spirit and club loyalty must be given priority over selfish play. Work equally hard for yourself and your team and your teams' performance will benefit as well as your own.

When you commit yourself to a team for the season, honour that commitment. Attend all training sessions and games each week for the whole of the season.

Be punctual to all games. You should be at the ground at least one hour before the match starts (or as advised by your coach and manager). If you arrive late you can expect to be a reserve if there is a surplus of players.

If you are unable to attend a training session you must notify your manager or the coach as to the reason why you are unable to attend. Failure to do this or supplying an unacceptable excuse may result in you not being selected in the run on side for the following match.

Treat all other players as you yourself would wish to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.

Always play by the rules and never argue with an official, referee or other players. Let the captain, coach or manager sort out any problems.

You must cooperate with coaches, team mates, referees and opponents. Without them you do not have a game.

Learn to win with grace and lose with dignity. Be modest in success and appreciate your opponents' performance, even when defeated.

At the conclusion of the game, the opponents are to be thanked for the game as should the referee and officials who have made the game possible.

Ensure that you are always dressed in the correct uniform for all games. You are provided with shorts and socks at the beginning of the season and a jersey is loaned to you by the Club to wear at each game.

If a player is unsure of what to do or needs to be assisted in any way, they should speak to the Team Manager, Coaches or Club Captain for help.

Rugby is a winter sport and the game should be considered on despite inclement weather. Always look to your Manager for advice first and secondly ensure you are checking for updates via social media and the website.

You are expected to help with the equipment at both training and at all matches. Equipment should be looked after and cared for by the whole team.

COACHES' CODE

Lead by example, ensuring that your behaviour sets the standard for your team.

Give all participants a 'fair go', regardless of ability, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background or religion. Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all participants.

Accept that everyone makes mistakes. Do not ridicule or yell at players or match officials for perceived mistakes.

Follow the Rugby Australia medical and safety recommendations and ensure your players are aware of them.

Display professionalism in your conduct and approach to coaching, understanding that your expectations of others must be appropriate for an amateur sport.

Only speak with match officials with a positive intent and manner, and never during or within 15 minutes after the match, or in the heat of the moment.

Actively discourage foul play, unsportsmanlike behaviour, dissent or querying of referee decisions by players.

Maintain a current knowledge of the laws of the game and coaching methods and teach your players to play within the laws and the spirit of the game.

Honestly evaluate your own performance and incorporate advice from others so that you can improve your coaching.

MATCH OFFICIALS' CODE

Place the safety and welfare of players above all else.

Give all participants a 'fair go', regardless of ability, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background or religion. Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all participants.

Be impartial, consistent and courteous when making decisions.

Avoid any situation which may lead to or be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Do not participate in or escalate a conflict situation.

Maintain a current knowledge of the laws of the game and their application.

Honestly evaluate your own performance and incorporate advice from others so that you can improve your officiating.

ADMINISTRATORS' CODE

Ensure that the club distributes the Code of Conduct and that it is made known to all participants.

Ensure your club trains its players, coaches and support staff in their responsibilities.

Monitor participant behaviour for any breaches of the Code of Conduct and take appropriate action to stop and/or sanction such behaviour.

Display the example of expected behaviours through your own club's behaviours, emphasising the importance of fair play.

Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help to improve the standards of coaching and officiating.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from the game.

SPECTATORS' CODE

Remember that people play organised sport for their own enjoyment.

Don't use profane language or harass players, coaches or referees.

Applaud good play by your own team and the visiting team.

Show respect for your own team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.

Never ridicule a player for making a mistake during the game.

Condemn the use of violence in all forms.

Respect the referee's decisions. Under no circumstances is the official's honesty or judgement to be questioned in public.

Sledging cannot be accepted in any way, shape, or form. Players, coaches and referees are not fair game.

Please refer to the following links for more information:

Rugby Australia Expectations of Behaviour Guidelines:

http://www.aru.com.au/Portals/18/Files/Administration/Policies/Code%20of%20Conduct/Expectations_of_Behaviour_Guidelines.pdf

The Rugby Australia Code of Conduct:

<http://www.aru.com.au/runningrugby/PolicyRegister/CodeofConduct.aspx>