



# Overton Rugby Football Club

## Codes of Conduct

On these pages you will find the codes by which **Overton Rugby** hope to develop the right attitude to Rugby in their members.

The idea of **Fair Play** should be a constant reference point for everyone involved in the club.

### PLAYERS' CODE

1. Play because you want to play, not just to please your parents or coach.
2. Remember, as well as enjoyment, the aims of the game are to improve your skills and feel good.
3. Be willing and enthusiastic at all training sessions.
4. Don't lose your cool. Verbal or physical abuse of team-mates, opponents or match officials is not cool and **not acceptable** .
5. Keep trying - even when it seems hopeless. "You'll never know, if you don't have a go".
6. Be a good sport. Acknowledge good play, whether by your team or by your opponent's team.
7. Play by the rules of the game and accept without question the referee's decision on all matters.

### PARENTS' CODE

1. Recognise that children play rugby for their own fun and enjoyment, not that of their parents.
2. Foster enthusiastic participation; do not force an unwilling child to participate in rugby.
3. Focus on a child's effort rather than winning or losing.
4. Be realistic about your child's ability, do not push them toward a level that they are not capable of achieving.
5. Acknowledge the value and importance of volunteer coaches and referees.
6. Parents of Under 7s should where possible remain at the club ground during training sessions.
7. Siblings, not registered players, remain the responsibility of the parent whilst at the club's ground.

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## **PARENTS and SPECTATORS' CODE**

1. Emphasise respect for referees by not publicly questioning the referee's honesty or decision-making.
2. Try not to shout continually and "at" the children. Shout encouragement for the team when they need it.
3. Encourage a child who has made a mistake during a game, never ridicule.
4. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team, children learn best by example.
5. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as winning so that defeat is accepted without disappointment.
6. Condemn bad behaviour and bad language.
7. Remember, "It's only a game".

## **COACH'S CODE**

1. Provide coaching at a level which matches the young player's age and ability, as well as their physical and mental development.
2. Teach our players that the rules of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should break.
3. Ensure good supervision of young players both on and off the field
4. Avoid over playing the talented players. The "just average" need and deserve equal time.
5. Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the players for making mistakes or losing a competition.
6. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
7. Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner to all players, both during coaching sessions and competitive games.
8. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and principles of growth and development of children.

## REFEREE'S CODE

1. Behave at all times in a manner becoming to your responsibility.
2. Know the rules and regulations and apply them to match the skill level of the players.
3. Vary the tone of your whistle to seek control with enjoyment rather than dominate with ill humour.
4. Play an advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow.
5. Ensure you are fit to keep up with the play, to enable you to be in the right place, at the right time, to make the right decision.
6. Explain your decisions, be consistent, objective and courteous.
7. Penalise deliberate foul play as being unsports-manlike, thus retaining the players' respect for fair play.
8. Complement players on good play whenever praise is deserved. Always complement both teams at the end of the match.
9. Keep yourself informed of all rule changes affecting rugby at the level you officiate.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE

1. Encourage an environment within the club whereby the opportunity to play rugby is offered to all children.
2. Promote the concept of fair play, respect and enjoyment. Discourage the "win at all costs" mentality.
3. Recognise that the club has a "Duty of Care" toward all young players.
4. Provide coaches with the opportunity to achieve governing body qualifications.
5. Ensure that equipment and facilities are available for, and appropriate to, the requirements of the coaches and the needs of the young players.
6. Ensure that all young players are registered as players with the RFU.
7. Ensure that the club provides responsible supervision for registered young players.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE (cont'd)

8. Ensure matches are officiated by suitable, and preferably qualified, referees.

9. Ensure appropriate medical and first aid provision is always available.
10. Promote links with the local community, particularly the schools.
11. Ensure that the club community is aware of, and abides by the policies and procedures outlined in the RFU Child Protection Guidance Booklet.