



Rugby Arizona Code of Conduct

*** This document must be signed by all coaches, referees, volunteers, players, and both parents/guardians ***

It is the duty of all participants, including coaches, referees, players, and spectators, to ensure that the game of rugby at every level is played in accordance with disciplined and good sporting behavior. We also have a special responsibility to ensure that our youth is given the best possible models of behavior so they may grow in the sport in the proper manner.

It is beneficial to the sport to remember that positive sideline and on-field behavior pays dividends. There will be consequences imposed, including fines, sending off, or bans for not abiding by these guidelines.

Rugby Arizona adopts the following guidelines from World Rugby, the international governing body for Rugby Union Football:

- No one but the **referee** and **players** are to be on the field during game play. Water carriers may enter the field at stoppages such as after tries or during an injury timeout. Coaches are not allowed on the field during stoppages such as after tries or during field play, unless directed by the referee. Coaches are allowed on the field during halftime only. AT (Athletic Trainer) medical personnel may enter the field to attend to an injured player if the play has moved away from where the injury occurred. The referee shall stop play if it interferes with medical attention
- No one may approach or talk to the referee at any time during play or stoppages when others may be allowed on the field. An exception to this can be the offering of water to the referee, or if a team captain has a question for the referee. Disrespect toward the referee will not be tolerated, and violators will be severely sanctioned
- Coaches, players, and spectators should positively encourage their teams during play. However, it is not acceptable for anyone on the sidelines to berate and criticize the referee or those playing. Severe sanctions will accompany such negative behavior
- Players participating in a match should limit their talk to encouraging their teammates and addressing certain teammates when calling out plays or signals. It is not acceptable for players on one team to verbally challenge or criticize those on the opposing team. At no time, with the exception of the team captains, may players address the referee in any way. Players who don't abide by this rule are liable to be sent off and face further sanctions
- Players and coaches are required to stay within their respective technical zones for the duration of the game, and spectators are required to stay within their approved spectator zones. Violators are liable for sanctions, including being removed to beyond the spectator zone or removed from the location
- The following Technical Zone policies are to be followed all season. Violation of any of these policies can conclude in removal of the violator:

Technical Zone Policies

- The Technical Zone (TZ) is defined as the space in front of the rope/barrier between the 10m line and 22m line
- The Technical Zone ends 2m from the touch line, to give room for ARs (Assistant Refs) and touch judges
- Coaches may not cross into the other team's TZ or leave their own TZ
- Teams should reside on the same side as their opposition, NOT on opposite sides of the field
- No more than three (3) coaches are allowed in the Technical Zone
- Coaches should not stand in or near the try zone or anywhere on the field of play outside the TZ. Coaches should not huddle with teams on the field after scores
- Only coaches who are registered and certified through USA Rugby are allowed in the TZ

Players

- Team benches should be between the 10m line and 22m line but "behind the rope" and not in the Technical Zone
- Teams should not warm up within 5m of the field of play
- Players warming up must wear a contrasting top to the players on the field (e.g. a pinny)
- Teams should not warm up with balls, cones, or other equipment (e.g. ruck pads)

- If space demands it, teams may warm up in the try zone but only if they access the try zone by staying to and from “behind the rope”

Fourth Official/Stat Keeper

- #4 (Fourth Official) or Match Manager (data tracker) occupies the space between the 10m lines (Administrative Area)
- Chairs may be set up in the Administrative Area for disciplinary/sin bin purposes
- No coach or player is allowed in the Administrative Area except when petitioning for a substitution

Water Carriers

- Water carriers must stay “behind the rope” unless the match official signals that they may enter the playing field
- Water carriers should wear pinnies or a distinguishing shirt that clashes with both teams’ players on the field
- Coaches may not serve as water carriers
- Water carriers should not be in the TZ

Medical Staff

- Medical professionals may roam either sideline and are not confined to the TZ
- Teams may have two (2) medical professionals in front of the rope and potentially on the field if needed; only one (1) medical professional per team is allowed per side of the field
- Coaches are not allowed onto the field with medical personnel unless explicitly allowed by the match official
- Medical personnel should always introduce themselves to the match official(s) before the match begins, to properly identify themselves as medical staff
- Coaches should not stand/double as medical staff; only independent medical professionals are allowed to be assigned to a match as the designated medical professional

Spectators

- Spectators should be on the opposite sideline from teams unless a second rope is present to prevent mixing of spectators with players/staff/administrators
- Spectators are never allowed in the field of play for any reason
- Spectators should not be behind the try zone unless stands or stadium seating is provided with proper restraints

In short, positive sideline behavior is rewarded with the opportunity for safe, hard and fast rugby in an enjoyable environment for all participants. Negative behavior on the field and sidelines does nothing but poison the game for everyone, and violators will be subject to sanctions decided by the Rugby Arizona Discipline Committee.

Acknowledged and agreed:

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Role: (circle all that apply)		
			Player	Coach	Club Staff
			Parent	Referee	
			Player	Coach	Club Staff
			Parent	Referee	
			Player	Coach	Club Staff
			Parent	Referee	