



Missoula Youth Rugby Code of Conduct

Rugby is a game of respect for all participants and spectators. Remember you are representing your team, club, family and the Game of Rugby. All club members and spectators will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen on the sidelines as well as on the pitch as we all strive to improve the image of rugby and rugby players at every level and opportunity.

Players

- Play for enjoyment and become part of the rugby family.
- Respect the "Game of Rugby" and play within the laws of the Game.
- Accept the referee's decision and let your captain ask any relevant questions.
- Play with control. Do not lose your temper.
- Always do your best and be committed to the game, your team and your club.
- Be a "good sport". Applaud all good play whether by your team or the opposition.
- Respect your opponent. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not "bully" or take advantage of any player.
- Rugby is a team sport so make sure you cooperate with your coach, teammates and members of your club.
- At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match.
- Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Tackle hard but fairly, do not intend to hurt your opponent.
- Winning and losing is part of sport: Win with humility - lose with dignity.
- As part of the team it is important that you attend practice regularly, listen to your coach and help your team.
- As a team sport it is important to understand that all members are important to the team!
- Remember you are representing your team, club, family and the Game of Rugby.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.

Guardians

- Remember, young people play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours
- Remember age grade players are not 'miniature internationals'. Please don't expect them to play at the same level as adult players.
- Encourage your child to always play by the Laws of the Game.
- Teach young children that honest endeavor is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Show respect for the opponents; without them there would be no match.
- Help young people to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at young players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in the playing of rugby. If the child is to play, he/she will do so in good time through your encouragement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from rugby.
- As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or players.
- Do not publicly question the referees' judgment and never their honesty.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.
- Identify and acknowledge the good qualities of the Game of Rugby and uphold these values.
- Remember you and your child's contribution to the Game of Rugby is very important to Missoula Youth Rugby and be proud of your contribution.
- Understand the value of team sport and the importance thereof.

Coaches

- Lead by example - players need a coach whom they respect.
- Teach your players that the Laws of the Game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a match.
- Develop player and team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- Insist on fair play and disciplined play. Do not tolerate foul play, fighting or foul language. Be prepared to take off an offending player.
- Create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to train and play.
- Never criticize the referee or touch judges during or after a match in front of players or spectators.
- Seek and follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Always thank the match officials and if they have made decisions which require clarification, discuss the problems after everyone has changed.
- Be responsible and ensure you uphold the climate of the game and Missoula Youth Rugby
- Ensure you and your players are proud of your team, club and efforts during the season.
- Ensure that all players participate in matches. The "average" players deserve equal time.
- Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill learning and playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition. Winning is not the only objective.
- Remember that as a coach of an "age grade team" you are to act in "loco parentis" and to that extent your duty of care must be more purposeful than that of a coach to an adult team.
- Be aware of the effect you have on growing children.
- Do not overburden younger players with too much information.

Spectators

- Be on your best behavior and lead by example.
- Do not use profane language or harass referees, players or coaches.
- Applaud good play by the visiting team as well as your own.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would not be a match.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms at every opportunity.
- Verbal abuse of players or referees cannot be accepted in any shape or form.
- Players or referees are not fair targets for ignorant behavior.
- Encourage players to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Spectators can contribute to the enjoyment of the event and all involved.
- Be proud of your club and the Game of Rugby.

**Let's Have a great season representing ourselves
and Missoula Youth Rugby!**

