

## Code of Conduct

Heriots Rugby Club's Code of Conduct should apply to all clubs, schools, teams, players, coaches, match officials and other persons participating in game upon club grounds or connected in any way with Heriots Rugby Club.

### **Everyone (inc. Senior players):-**

- (1) Ensure that the game is played and conducted in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour and acknowledge that it is not sufficient to rely solely upon the match officials to maintain those values;
  - (2) Should co-operate to ensure that the spirit of the rules/laws of the Game is upheld and encourage players to refrain from committing acts of foul play (including by refraining from selecting them where appropriate);
  - (3) Should not repeatedly breach the rules/laws of the Game;
  - (4) Should accept and observe the authority and decisions of the match officials and all other rugby disciplinary bodies;
  - (5) Should not abuse, threaten or intimidate any match official, whether on or off the field of play;
  - (6) Should not publish or cause to be published (in any written form) criticism of the manner in which a match official handled a match or how any player has performed;
  - (7) Resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning (e.g. gambling or betting on a game)
  - (8) Should promote the reputation of the game and the club and take all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.
  - (9) should set an example to younger players and member and not use crude, foul or abusive language or gestures towards other players, coaches, club officials, match officials, spectators or any other person;
  - (10) should not do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any person on the grounds of their religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, colour or national or ethnic origin;
- and (11) should abide by all rules, regulations, codes of conduct and policies issued by Heriots Rugby Club including, Scottish Rugby's Child Protection Policy, Concussion Policy and Player Payment Policy;

***Each club, player, coach, match official and other person connected in any way with the Heriots Rugby Club should be under an obligation to comply with this Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Code of Conduct shall constitute acts of Misconduct under localised club disciplinary and Scottish Rugby's Disciplinary Rules.***

In conjunction of the above code, there are additional codes of conduct for players (both adult and junior players), parents/carers and coaches that Heriots Rugby Club would like members to adhere to ensure our community and family orientated club continues to strive for a respectful environment for players and members to thrive and enjoy attending the club.

### **Players (inc. Junior Players):-**

- (1) Make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, technique, tactics and stamina
- (2) Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game, even if the team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
- (3) Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
- (4) Avoid all forms of gamesmanship and time wasting.
- (6) Not use inappropriate, crude, foul or abusive language or gestures towards other players, coaches, club officials, match officials, spectators or any other person
- (7) Be polite and welcoming towards other teams and players and shake hands at the end of the game whatever the result.
- (8) Respect the Coach and any match official's decisions.
- (9) Involve all your team mates – rugby is a team game

Parents/Carers/spectators within our club should always be positive and encouraging towards all of the children and not just their own. Parents/spectators should:

### **Parents/Carers/Spectators:-**

- (1) Applaud the opposition as well as your own team
- (2) Avoid coaching the child during the game
- (3) Respect the Game Coach's decision
- (4) Give attention to each of the children involved in rugby and not just the most talented
- (5) Give encouragement to everyone to participate in rugby
- (6) Never enter the playing area.
- (7) If a parent has any concerns they should speak to their child's coach (if the concerns are regarding a safeguarding issue then the club child protection officer can be contacted directly or via any of the coaching team).
- (8) If using social media, when it comes to team/club/opposition, we only use positive/supporting comments/posts
- (9) Any parent/spectator in breach of the Code of Conduct or bringing the club in to disrepute may be asked to remove themselves from the training session/fixture immediately.

***Misconduct could lead to suspension and in exceptional circumstances, where the behaviour is deemed by the Committee as wholly unacceptable or their behaviour has been persistent, ongoing or disruptive, the Micros/youth section coaches and team managers reserve the right to request that a parent/guardian no longer attends training or fixtures.***

- (10) Ensure that your child is dressed for the prevailing weather
- (11) Take your child to the pitch side and collect them from there before and after training, for safety reasons
- (12) Make sure that your child has a gum shield/mouth guard to play rugby
- (13) Check the studs on boots regularly for any sharp edges and either file or replace them to avoid injury
- (14) Don't send your child to rugby if they are unwell or injured
- (15) Promote fair play and provide support and encouragement during matches
- (16) Show respect to opponents and officials
- (17) Speak to the coaches, Team managers or club child protection officer about any issues or concerns that you may have
- (18) Recognise that all of the Micros/youth coaches are volunteers and try and support them as best you can
- (19) Help with the catering and clean up when we are hosting visiting clubs.

**Coaches:-**

- (1) Youth section coaches must always remember they are coaching children. Sessions should be Active, Purposeful, Enjoyable, Safe and above all – FUN!
- (2) Communicate clearly, simply and positively with all players
- (3) Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person equally within the context of the sport. Be patient, encouraging and supportive
- (4) Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- (5) Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
- (6) Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
- (7) Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- (8) Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- (9) Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.

(10) Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and where appropriate, parent or guardian) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.

(11) Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interest of the player.

(12) Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations on prohibited techniques.

(13) Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.

(14) Coaches must not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

(15) Show respect to players, coaches and referees/officials.

***Any coach in breach of the Code of Conduct or bringing the club in to disrepute may be removed from their position. If using social media, when it comes to team/club/opposition, we only use positive/supporting comments/posts***