



SOUTHERN DISTRICTS RUGBY CLUB

Code of Conduct

Administrators
Managers
Coaches
Players
Parents/Guardians
Supporters
Social Media

PURPOSE

Southern Districts Rugby Union Club promotes Australian Rugby Union (ARU) and Victorian Rugby Union (VRU) Code of Conducts. This has been designed to ensure that all players, members, spectators, officials and volunteers have a very clear understanding of the behaviour that is expected from everyone and to make it clearly understood that breaches of these codes will result in disciplinary action.

ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE

- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in Rugby are made available to all irrespective of ability.
- Do not allow the game to become primarily spectator entertainment.
- Equipment and facilities must be appropriate to the maturity level of the players.
- Remember that play is done for its own sake. Do not emphasize the need for awards.
- Distribute the code of conduct to spectators, coaches, players, referees, parents and teachers.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, doctors and participants understand their authority and their responsibility for fair play in rugby.
- Ensure adequate supervision is maintained at all games.
- Behave in a manner to set an example for all participants.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game.
- Remember, the Victorian Rugby Union (VRU) Management Committee, Competition Committee has the power to cite Players, Coaches, and/or Spectators for behaviour that may bring the game of Rugby into disrepute.

Please initial and date to show that you have read this section:

Initial: _____ **Date:** _____

MANAGER'S CODE

- Encourage parents to take an active interest in the Team.
- Encourage supporters to praise good play by both teams.
- Provide administrative assistance to the Coach including full knowledge of the Competition Rules and paperwork requirements.
- Be fully informed of Rugby requirements and matters affecting your team.
- Look after injured players while they are not able to take the field.
- Ensure that players are aware of representative trials and if selected, they are fully aware of their commitments and that they know of their selection.
- Insist on an appropriate standard of team behaviour both on and off the field.
- Set an example in terms of behaviour.
- Only approach the referee / touch judge if required to do so whilst performing your role as Team Manager i.e Substituting players / signing of team sheet once game has finished.
- If an incident arises at any time, it is your responsibility to report it to any committee member. It is not your responsibility to take action into your own hands.
- Remember, the Victorian Rugby Union (VRU) Committee, Competition Committee has the power to cite Players, Coaches, and/or Spectators for behaviour that may bring the game of Rugby into disrepute.

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COACHES are required to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- You have a responsibility for the behaviour of your team and its supporters.
- Remember that players need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
- Teach your players that laws of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
- Support, encourage and involve all players regardless of their talent level
- Never ridicule or yell at players for errors or poor performance. Remember that people play for Fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it
- Be reasonable in your demands on the player's time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests and demands on their time.
- Always consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before performance and results
- Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results
- Ensure that all players get a game. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behavior both on and off the field
- Encourage players to develop basic skills and avoid over-specialisation in positional play during their formative years.
- Maintain respectful and appropriate relationships with all participants
- Follow the advice of First Aid in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Ensure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of participants
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport, do not tolerate foul play, fighting, or foul language.
- Be prepared to take off an offending player. (eg insist on fair play)
- Always respect the official's decision and support them to carry out their role
- Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship, just as you would in teaching the basic skills.

- Display consistently high standards of good sporting behaviour and appearance
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the Club.
- Hold appropriate valid qualifications before commencing to coach, make a personal
- commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of people.
- Never condone rule violations, unfair or unduly rough play or the use of prohibited substances
- Never smoke or drink alcohol whilst in an official capacity
- Never use offensive language or behaviour
- To act as a role model at all times.
- The scheduling and length of practice times and games should take into consideration the maturity level of the players.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as, the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- INSIST on a disciplined approach by players and mean what you say.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game.
- Unless it is in the course of your normal activities as a coach.
- If an incident arises at any time, it is your responsibility to report it to any committee member. It is not your responsibility to take action into your own hands.

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PLAYERS are required to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Play by the rules and respect the Referee & Touch Judge decisions. Let your captain ask any necessary questions.
- Display good sporting behaviour at all times.
- Never use offensive language or behaviour towards anyone or engage in sledging or bullying of any person
- Co-operate with your coach, manager, team mates, referee and opponents, for without them you don't have a game.
- Adhere to club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements
- Never behave in a manner that would damage the reputation of the club either on or off the field
- Play for the 'enjoyment', not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play the laws of the game of Rugby
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team – you team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good play, whether by your team or by your opponent.
- Treat all players, as you yourself would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game.
- If an incident arises at any time, it is your responsibility to report it to any committee member. It is not your responsibility to take action into your own hands.

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PARENTS/GUARDIANS and SPECTATORS are required to:

- At all times during training, must remain outside the training area unless called in by a coach or managerial staff. This is to ensure that coaching time is used efficiently and the safety of all children is taken into consideration.
- Treat everyone including the opposition with respect regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Do not force an unwilling youngster to participate in Rugby. Remember, players are involved in Rugby for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Act as good role models and ambassadors for the club at all times. Always welcome opposition players, spectators, officials etc. to the club.
- Be on your best behaviour. Don't use offensive language, or harass players, coaches, referees or other spectators.
- Turn defeat into victory by helping players work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Display consistently high standards of good sporting behaviour including respecting the official's decisions. Do not publicly question the referee's judgment and never his/her honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches, managers and referees. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your children.
- Adhere to the smoke-free policies of the club
- Not to consume alcohol in any place other than where the club's license allows
- Adhere to and support the Club policies
- Be trustworthy
- Encourage players to always play by the laws.
- Teach players that honest effort is as important as victory so the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Remember that players learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team, without them there would be no games.
- Support efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all levels of Rugby.

- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game.
- Show respect for your team's opponents.
- Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during the game.
- **SLEDGING: THIS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED** in any shape or form.
- All junior events are alcohol and smoke free.
- If an incident arises at any time, it is your responsibility to report it to any committee member. It is not your responsibility to take action into your own hands.
- The club has an appointed Child Safety Officer. **For the 2017 season, Fiona Stuart-Doherty (U14 Manager)** has taken on this position and can be contacted on 0413 492 at any stage if there are any concerns.

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SOCIAL MEDIA Conduct

- At Southern Districts Rugby Club we are keen to promote the safe and responsible use of social media but also to make its members aware of the potential risks and to share best practice.
- Participants should be aware that comments which bring the game into disrepute, or are threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting, is not ACCEPTABLE.
- Comments that include a reference to a person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability may attract a high disciplinary sanction.

Our Social Media Channels:

- ✚ Facebook Group (closed) – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernpirates>
- ✚ Facebook Club News Page - <https://www.facebook.com/southerndistrictpirates/>
- ✚ Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SouthsPirates>
- ✚ Website – www.southerndistrictsrugby.club
- ✚ TeamApp - <https://southerndistrictsrugby.teamapp.com/>
- ✚ Email – (Enquiries) – sdrcsecretary@gmail.com

- These are public forums, so treat them as such
- The Facebook Group – **Southern Pirates Rugby Club Melbourne** is a closed group and is largely to be used to communicate with other club members as an individual.
- The Facebook Page – **Southern Districts Rugby Club News** - will be used for official posts and notifications only.
- Do not use abusive, derogatory, vulgar or sexual language on these official club pages.
- Do not criticise or imply bias towards match officials or coaching or management staff
- At all times, exercise discretion and respect for clubs, players, fans and the game's partners
- Individuals need to understand that they are personally responsible and liable for their comments and postings.

- At all times you should exercise discretion and be respectful of other players, teams, officials, organisations and brands.
- Be mindful when you “banter” as it could be regarded as embarrassing or hurtful by a wider audience and bring the club and the game into disrepute.

In short, follow the general guidelines above and:

- Don’t comment if you have any concerns about the consequences
- Don’t link to unsuitable content
- Don’t get into disputes with audience
- Don’t share or elicit personal detail

But

- Do let people know what it is like to be a player/official
- Do show your personality and be approachable
- Do share your achievements
- Do post regular comments to grow and engage with an audience

The club has a social media officer who can be contacted at sdrccomms@gmail.com for further enquiries.

I have read and agree to abide by the Codes of Conduct and understand that if I breach any of the Codes, disciplinary action will result.

Name _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

*****Parent signature to accompany where the participant is under 18**

Name of Junior _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For further information regarding the Code of Conduct please direct enquiries to the Club Secretary at sdrcsecretary@gmail.com