

# HAMPSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

## Regulation, Advice and Guidance Note 13

*Sponsor Game Development Committee*

*Approved 9 May 2013*

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## CODE OF CONDUCT - THE SPIRIT OF RUGBY

1301 HAMPSHIRE RUGBY is a RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY for the ENJOYMENT OF ALL. It should go without saying that the Core Values are known and observed by everyone in the Game in Hampshire. Lest we forget these are:

### **TEAMWORK, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT, DISCIPLINE and SPORTSMANSHIP (TREDS)**

1302 For the benefit of all its players and supporters, both new and old, each and every Hampshire Club is required to include a Code of Conduct in its constitution or rules. It is strongly recommended that a Club's Code of Conduct be displayed on the Club Notice Board and in each match programme a Club produces.

1303 In addition to observing the Core Values everyone should ensure that in their playing of the Game, and in their general support of the Union, its teams and the Clubs, they at no time indulge in any unsporting behavior or activities which could blemish the good name of the Union or their Club or bring the reputation of the Game into disrepute. There is no place in the Game for bad language and our referees are encouraged to penalize players who persistently offend.

### 1304 **GOOD HAMPSHIRE CLUBS WILL**

#### At Home

Make welcome Match Officials, and their Advisors

Make welcome visiting Teams, and their Club Officers

Make provision for all spectators

Respect their visitors in the Club House, on the pitch and on the touchline

Entertain Match Officials and their Advisors after the game

Advise the visiting Club of the meal arrangements

#### When Away

Introduce themselves to the hosts and the Match Officials

Accept the Home Club's hospitality regardless of the result

#### Always

Condemn all violent or illegal acts, on or off the pitch

Prevent disputes with other Clubs without recourse to the County, the RFU or litigation.

### 1305 **Do YOU**

Understand the Spirit of Rugby?

Respect and Accept the referee's decisions without dissent?

Know the Laws of the Game – before you criticise Match Officials?

Set a good example to young people?

1306 No PLAYERS should ever play under the influence of alcohol or drugs.  
No SPORTS-PERSON would ever feign injury.

### 1307 **NO CLUB OFFICIAL, PLAYER OR SUPPORTER SHOULD EVER**

Use, promote or encourage violent or antisocial behavior

Use crude, insulting, or offensive language or gestures, on or off the field of play, towards match officials, players or spectators and especially not as a verbal code for the continuation of the game

Threaten or abuse match officials or opposition players, officials or supporters

Ridicule mistakes made by young players

In any form of social media, use insulting, offensive, abusive or threatening language concerning match officials or opponents and, freedom of speech notwithstanding, publish anything which brings the game into disrepute

Show any discrimination, harassment or victimization towards anyone regarding, but not limited to, race, sexual orientation, gender, disability, ethnicity or religion.

Engage in "trophy collecting", vandalising, or leaving a mess in their opponents' club house;

Behave in any way likely to cause offence to members of the public while travelling to, or from, a match. For Hampshire's Clubs this is particularly applicable when travelling by air or sea.

1308 Club Officers are advised that they are responsible for the content of their official Club website or any website which purports to be official. They are to ensure that the contents of their Club website are not offensive and do not contain material which brings the game, the RFU or the HRFU into disrepute or is prejudicial to the interests of the game, the RFU, the HRFU or the HRR. They should advise their members that they too could be disciplined for social media comments which are considered to bring the Game into disrepute.

#### 1309 **ABUSE OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

Clubs have a responsibility for the behaviour of their members, players, young players' parents or guardians, coaches and regular supporters towards match officials. Clubs are expected to take all reasonable steps to protect match officials from any form of abuse. Abuse of match officials is defined as individual perception of personal degradation be it mental or physical, before, during and after the game including (but not limited to) verbal or physical assault, intimidating conduct, racial or sexual harassment. Clubs must be pro-active in eradicating abuse and club officers must take charge when such situations may be seen to be starting.

1310 Everyone must understand that their Club will be held accountable for any misconduct such as that outlined above. A Zero-Tolerance approach is maintained by the Rugby Football Union, our Hampshire Rugby Referees and the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. RFU Rule 5.12 gives us the power to apply the ultimate sanction and ban a Club.

#### **YOUNG PLAYERS**

1311 In addition to the foregoing every Club with Young Players must have clearly publicized the Codes of Conduct specified by the RFU in the Club Safeguarding Officer's Handbook. Some Clubs issue copies to parents and guardians and display them on Notice-Boards and in Changing Rooms.

1312 This Union requires all those involved with Young Players to fully understand and to be capable of teaching, instructing and coaching their young people the Core Values of the Game, its ethos and traditions.

#### **A WARNING**

1313 This Union will not appoint to any position nor select to play for Club Hampshire anyone who repeatedly infringes this Code.

1314 The Disciplinary Sub Committee, who are all volunteers with a wide experience and understanding of the game and its ethos, may hold an inquiry into any alleged breach of this Regulation and may suspend or fine any serious offender.