

## SECTION 9

### PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **What the Club wants from its Young Players**

Heathfield & Waldron RFC recognises the importance of ensuring its young players are aware of their own responsibilities and in instilling best practice from an early age. To create a habit of positive, constructive, sociable behaviour, from Under 6's upwards:

- Players will be reminded as to what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
- Older players will be encouraged to be good role models to the younger players.
- Unacceptable behaviour will be discussed and may result in either yellow/red card and/or time out.

Any persistent behaviour problems or significant misconduct will result in a report to the Chairman of the relevant Youth Section who will decide on further investigation/action eg implementing the Player Disciplinary Procedure (see Appendix 3). Heathfield & Waldron RFC always aims to work towards a positive outcome.

#### **The Good Player's Code**

Players will be asked to follow the *RFU's Good Players Code* by which players are encouraged to:

- (a) Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, match officials and administrators in providing the opportunity to play the game and enjoy the rugby environment.
- (b) Understand the values of loyalty and commitment to adults and team mates.
- (c) Recognise that every player has a right to expect their involvement in rugby to be safe and free from all types of abuse.
- (d) Understand that if an individual or group of players feel they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, then they should tell an adult either at the club or school or outside of the game.
- (e) Play because they want to do so, not to please coaches or parents.
- (f) Remember that skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important parts of the game.
- (g) Be attentive at all training and coaching sessions.
- (h) Work equally hard for themselves and their team - both will then benefit.
- (i) Recognise good play by all players on their team and by their opponents.
- (j) Be a sportsman - win with dignity, lose with grace.
- (k) Play to the IRB Laws of the Game and accept, without question, all referees' decisions even if they appear to make a mistake.
- (l) Control their emotions. Verbal or physical abuse of team-mates, opponents, coaches, match officials or spectators is not acceptable.
- (m) Treat all players, as they would like to be treated themselves. Do not interfere with, bully or take advantage of any player.

## SECTION 10

### PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

#### What the Club expects of Parents and Guardians

We have a membership registration, a player medical form and a parental consent form that parents are asked to complete in respect of their charges (see Forms 4, 5 and 6). By signing the application form for their charge, Parents/Guardians are also agreeing to abide by the **RFU's Good Parents Code** according to which they should:

- (a) Be familiar with the coaching and training programme in order that they can ensure their child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their availability.
- (b) Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing the coaching and training sessions in which their child participates.
- (c) Be aware that the club has a duty of care to ensure the safety of players and therefore, where appropriate, assist coaches with the supervision of the players, particularly where numbers are large and there is a need to transport players to away games.
- (d) Be involved with club activities and share their expertise.
- (e) Share concerns, if they have them, with club or school officials.
- (f) Be familiar with the Good Coaches' Code contained in the Rugby Continuum. In particular be aware that:
  - (1) coaches should recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players; and
  - (2) coaches should keep winning and losing in perspective, encouraging players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- (g) Support coaches in instilling these virtues.
- (h) Remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment, not that of their parents.
- (i) Encourage young people to play - do not force them.
- (j) Focus on the players' efforts, rather than winning or losing.
- (k) Be realistic about the players' abilities; do not push them towards a level that they are not capable of achieving.
  - (l) Provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
- (m) Remember that persistent, negative messages will adversely affect the players' and referee's performance and attitude.
- (n) Always support the club in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
- (o) Remember young people learn much by example.
- (p) Always show appreciation of good play by all players both from their own club and the opposition.
- (q) Respect decisions made by the match officials, even if they appear to make a mistake, and encourage the players to do likewise.
- (r) Help coaches encourage players to follow the Good Players Code (see Section 9).

#### Complaints

We hope you will never reach the stage where you feel it is necessary to make a complaint about Heathfield & Waldron RFC or the treatment of your child. In the first instance we would ask you to discuss any problems with your child's coach. However if you do not wish to do this or are not satisfied, please put your concern/complaint in writing to the Chairman of Heathfield & Waldron RFC's Junior or Mini-Midi Sections. If you do not wish to do this or are not satisfied then the main club chairman is available to discuss anything with you. If you remain dissatisfied you may contact people outside the club – in the first instance it is recommended that you contact the Regional Development Officer (see Section 11 – Useful Contact Details).