

## **Marist Rugby Code of behaviour and standards Guide**

*(adapted from "Fair Play Codes for Children in Sport" by the National Task Force on Children's Play Canadian Council on Children and Youth.)*

This guide is designed:

- To maintain the element of enjoyment and satisfaction in Junior Rugby.
- To make adults aware that young people play to satisfy themselves and not necessarily to satisfy adults or members of their own peer group.
- To improve the physical fitness of youth by making it attractive, safe and enjoyable for all young people.
- To constantly remind Administrators, Coaches, Parents, that Rugby must be administered, taught and provided, for the good of those young people who wish to play the game.
- It is their game!

### **Administrator**

- 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 young players.
- Rules and length of schedules should take into consideration the age and maturity level of the young 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, 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 (except to thank them for their time and effort – they are volunteers too!)

### **Manager**

- Encourage parents to take an active interest in the Team.
- Encourage parents and supporters to talk to opposition spectators.
- Encourage supporters to praise good play by both teams.
- Discourage supporters from excessive barracking.
- Provide administrative assistance to the Coach including full knowledge of the Competition Rules and paperwork requirements (including submitting game results to the College Rugby Master in a timely manner)
- Be fully informed of Rugby requirements and matters affecting your team.
- Look after injured players while they are not able to take the field.
- Insist on an appropriate standard of team behaviour both on and off the field.
- Set an example in terms of behaviour.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game (except to thank them for their time and effort – they are volunteers too!)

### **Coach**

- You have responsibility for the behaviour of your team and its supporters. EXERCISE IT.

- Be reasonable in your demands on the young player's time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests and demands on their time.
- Teach your players the Laws of The Game and that they are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break. Keep your own knowledge of coaching and the developments of the game up to date.
- Ensure that all players get a game. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time.
- Remember that young people play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the players for making mistakes or losing a game.
- 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.
- Follow the advice of a doctor/first-aid officer in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Remember that young people need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Encourage young people to develop basic skills and avoid over-specialization in positional play during their formative years.
- Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship, just as you would in teaching the basic skills.
- Ensure that efforts for both skill improvement and good sportsmanship are rewarded by praise.
- Ensure that skill learning and free play activities have priority over highly structured competitions for very young people.
- **INSIST ON FAIR PLAY.** Do not tolerate foul play, fighting, or foul language. Be prepared to take off an offending player.
- Discourage excessive 'trash' talk on the pitch.
- **INSIST** on a disciplined approach by players and mean what you say.
- Set a good example by personal good behaviour.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game (except to thank them for their time and effort, or to ask a reasonable question in a respectful and calm manner e.g. to clarifying a law interpretation. Remember they are volunteers giving up their time too and do not deserve to be harassed in any form)

## **Player**

- Play for the 'enjoyment', not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play to the Laws of the Game
- Never argue or dispute the referee's decisions. Let your captain ask any necessary questions.
- Control your temper - no 'mouthing off' (no foul language/swearing)
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team - you team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
- Be a good sport. Acknowledge/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. Don't be a show off or always try to get the most points.
- Co-operate with your coach, manager, team mates, referee and opponents, for without them you don't have a game.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game (except to thank them for their time and effort – they are volunteers too).

## **Parent**

- Do not force an unwilling youngster to participate in Rugby.
- Encourage your child to always play by the laws.
- Teach young people that honest effort is as important as victory so the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Turn defeat into victory by helping young people work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that young people learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Do not publicly question the referee's judgment and never his/her honesty.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior rugby
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches, managers and referees. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your children.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game (except to thank them for their time and effort – they are volunteers too)

## Spectator

- Remember that young people play organised sports for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you and they are not elite rugby players
- Be on your best behaviour. Don't use offensive language, or harass players, coaches, referees or other spectators.
- Applaud good play by your own team and the opposition team.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no games.
- Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during the game.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
- Respect the referee's decisions.
- Encourage players to play according to the laws.
- Do not approach a referee/touch judge at any stage during or immediately after a game (except to thank them for their time and effort – they are volunteers too)
- SLEDGING: THIS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED in any shape or form. Players and Referees are NOT fair game.