

## Regulation 13

### CODE OF CONDUCT - THE SPIRIT OF RUGBY

#### *Sponsor Governance Committee*

- 1301 HAMPSHIRE RUGBY is a RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY for the ENJOYMENT OF ALL.
- 1302 Each and every Member Club is required to include a Code of Conduct in its constitution and rules. It is strongly recommended that a Club's Code of Conduct be based on this Regulation and should be displayed on the Club Notice Board and in any match programme a Club produces.
- 1303 All persons are expected to play, administer or support the playing of the Game in accordance with the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play.
- 1304 In particular, everyone should ensure that in their playing of the Game, and also in their general support of the Union, its teams and its Member Clubs, they at no time indulge in any unsporting behaviour or activities which could blemish the good name of the Union or their Club or bring the reputation of the Game into disrepute.
- 1305 **GOOD HAMPSHIRE CLUBS WILL**
- At Home
    - Make welcome Match Officials, and their Advisors
    - Make welcome all visiting Teams, and their 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
    - Prevent disputes with other Clubs without recourse to the County, the RFU or litigation.
- 1306 **Do YOU**
- Understand the Spirit of Rugby?
  - Know the basic Laws of the Game – before you criticise Match Officials?
  - Accept the referee's decisions without dissent?
  - Set a good example to young people?
- 1307 No PLAYERS should ever play under the influence of alcohol or drugs. No SPORTSMAN would ever feign injury.
- 1308 **NO CLUB OFFICIAL, PLAYER OR SUPPORTER SHOULD EVER**
- Use, promote or encourage violent or antisocial behaviour.
  - Use insulting, crude or abusive language or gestures towards Match Officials or spectators.
  - Abuse or threaten Match Officials or opposition players, officials or supporters.
  - Use any form of media to offensively criticise a match official.
  - Publish ANYTHING likely to cause offence and bring the Game into disrepute.
  - Make racial or racist or sexist remarks.
  - 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 by sea.

1309 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 HRURS.

#### 1310 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.

1311 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 Referees' Society and the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. RFU Rule 5.12 gives us the power to apply the ultimate sanction and ban a Club.

#### YOUNG PLAYERS

1312 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 Welfare Officer's Handbook. Some Clubs issue copies to parents and guardians and display them on Notice-Boards and in Changing Rooms.

1313 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

1314 This Union will not appoint to any position nor select to play for Club Hampshire anyone who repeatedly infringes this Code.

1315 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 any serious offender.