

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN RUGBY

STEW MEL LIONS supports and requires ***all*** members to observe the following standards of practice, including verbal and non-verbal actions when involved in activities with young players under the age of 18 years.

GOOD PRACTICE

ALL

- Make rugby fun, enjoyable and promote fair play principals.
- Place value on the efforts and achievements of all players involved, including those on other teams.
- Treat all players equally, with respect, dignity and fairness.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.

COACHES

- Follow Scottish Rugby age grade policies and Are You Ready to Play Rugby guidelines.
- Properly supervise children during rugby activity.
- Put the welfare and development of each player first before winning or achieving team performance goals.
- Build balanced relationships based on mutual trust and respect.
- Include players in the decision-making process wherever possible and appropriate.
- Work in an open environment, wherever possible.
- Be an excellent role model.
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of young players.
- Follow medical advice and protocols relating to injury prevention and management.

PRACTICE TO BE AVOIDED

COACHES

- Too much emphasis on the team winning over the enjoyment and development of the young players involved.
- Excessive training and competition, pushing young players against their will and putting undue pressure on them.
- Involving adults in practical demonstrations of contact rugby techniques including coaches holding tackle pads and bags for drills for young players.
- Spending inappropriate and unnecessary amounts of time working with children alone in private or unobserved situations.

GENERAL

- Failing to follow SRU guidelines and recommendations on best practice

- Having 'favourites'
- Arranging to transport a child alone in your car, without prior consent from the child's parents
- Smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children
- Where possible, doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

COACHES

- Deliberately threatening, insulting, humiliating or embarrassing a player as a form of control and/or 'motivation'
- Reducing a player to tears as a form of control
- Engaging in rough or physical contact, including tackling a young player
- Swearing at young players or allowing players to do the same unchallenged
- Use sexualised language and/or allowing young players to do the same unchallenged
- Condoning or promoting excessive rivalry between players, teams and/or clubs on or off the pitch
- Shouting abusive or derogatory comments from the touchline at players or match officials