Coach Code of Conduct

The Rugby Washington Coach Code of Conduct is one of the ways we put rugby’s values into practice. Our commitment to the highest standards helps us recruit great people, build quality teams and clubs, and create positive influences in our community. Respect for our members, our community, and our game is foundational for our success. Each of us has a personal responsibility to incorporate, and to encourage other members to incorporate, the principles of the Code of Conduct and values onto the field. This code establishes the basic contract for all coaches within Rugby Washington and/or engaging in rugby activities.

As a coach participating in the Rugby Washington organization, I understand and accept the below responsibilities:

1. Coaches must be aware they have tremendous influence in the behaviors of players, other coaches, and spectators. A coach should never place winning above maintaining the values of Rugby Washington. Coaches should actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship and respect from all members and foster a safe environment for players.

2. Rugby Washington’s three main goals are to grow the game, develop players, and provide opportunities. Any behavior that directly goes against these goals such as but not limited to rejecting/cutting players based on ability, bribing or threatening members, limiting opportunities to play or learn, and/or ‘poaching’ players from other teams are subject to disciplinary actions and possible suspension.

3. Coaches and volunteers must register through SportLoMo under a Rugby Washington club/team and complete the appropriate fields required by USA Rugby, USA Youth and High School Rugby, and Rugby Washington including background checks and SafeSport.

4. Coaches must be Level 200 certified in order to instruct contact elements of the game as required by USA Rugby and USA Youth and High School Rugby.

5. Coaches are expected to know and understand the most current law variations and instruct their players to play the game within those laws.

6. Rugby Washington has a zero tolerance policy for bullying or harassment of any nature whether in-person or virtually. Racist, sexist, homophobic, bigoted comments, obscene language or anything perceived as hateful will be grounds for disciplinary actions.

7. Fighting (verbal and physical) on the pitch or sidelines will be grounds for immediate ejection from the field followed by appropriate disciplinary action and possible suspension from the league for a period of time determined by Rugby Washington.

8. Respect for the referee, coaches, spectators, and players is expected on and off the field. Respect for the referee is required under World Rugby Law 9 and PNRRS Policies for the players, coaches, and spectators. Verbal abuse, disrespectful behavior and/or assault either verbal or physical will results in ejection and possible suspension.
9. Rugby Washington has a zero tolerance policy for use or suspected use of controlled substances such as alcohol, drugs, cigarettes around minors, and/or tolerated use within a team. Engaging in such actions are grounds for disciplinary actions. Knowledge of a player using controlled substances and not reporting to proper authorities is considered the equivalent of a personal offense. Members who do not report will be subject to disciplinary actions.