**FORDINGBRIDGE RUGBY CLUB**

**Whole Club Code of Conduct**

**Chairman's Introduction**

We are a friendly, family orientated and progressive club where new players and members of any age and ability are always welcome. We have attained the RFU Whole Club Seal of Approval and this demonstrates that the Club has reached the standards required of a sustainable rugby club; providing a safe, effective and enjoyable experience for its players and other members. The following ensures that this will always be the case.

**Fordingbridge Rugby Football Club (FRFC) fully endorses the Rugby Football Union (RFU) Core Values, namely: TEAMWORK, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT, DISCIPLINE & SPORTSMANSHIP and these values form the foundation for the whole club codes of conduct set out below.**

**1 FRFC MATCH OFFICIALS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Match Officials provided by FRFC should:**

1.01 Always put the safety of players first.

1.02 Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating matches.

1.03 Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner during games.

1.04 Be a positive role model and set a good example

1.05 Take responsibility, with the FRFC Club Referee Coordinator (CRC), for the currency of their own RFU refereeing qualifications and Continuous Personal Development (CPD) participation.

1.06 Explain your decisions clearly and concisely to help players and spectators understand what is happening.

1.07 Try to be positive, play advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow and always penalise foul play.

1.08 Show empathy for the age and ability of players.

1.09 Be consistent and objective.

1.10 Be familiar with the FRFC Codes of Conduct and proactively ensure that they are followed. If appropriate an FRFC Referee or Match Official may decide to take further action in line with the Post Match Procedure set out in Appendix 2.05.

1.11 Be aware of, and where they apply, abide by the RFU Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.

1.12 Officiate to the rules laid down in the RFU Rugby Continuum and keep themselves updated on rule changes.

1.13 Check that a risk assessment has been carried out and that a qualified first aider, unobstructed ambulance access and any necessary first aid equipment is available along with someone trained in its use before starting play.

1.14 Check the playing surface is free of any potential hazards.

1.15 Check that players' studs and clothing are in accordance with the iRB Laws of the Game.

**2 FRFC COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FRFC Coaches should:**

2.01 Always put safety first.

2.02 Be a positive role model and set a good example.

2.03 Be punctual, reliable and properly equipped.

2.04 Communicate in advance with the relevant FRFC administrator in the event of their unavailability to coach.

2.05 Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment, as well as performance, when coaching players.

2.06 Keep winning and losing in perspective - encourage players to behave with dignity in all circumstances, win or lose.

2.07 Respect all referees and the decisions they make.

2.08 Recognise that verbal or physical abuse of players, other coaches, match officials and/or spectators is not acceptable and will not be tolerated and should never behave in a way that could be considered to be bullying.

2.09 Plan and deliver sessions which recognize that most learning is achieved through doing.

2.10 Provide players with positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner.

2.11 Plan and deliver sessions which match the players' ages, abilities, and level of physical and behavioural development.

2.12 Ensure the availability of first aid facilities and equipment, and unobstructed emergency vehicle access at each session.

2.13 Never allow a player to train or play when injured.

2.14 Ensure that young players are well supervised both on and off the field.

2.15 Protect players from adverse weather conditions and any risk of injury.

2.16 Recognise that it is illegal for players under 18 to drink alcohol and for those under 16 to smoke cigarettes.

2.17 Take responsibility, with the FRFC Club Coaching Coordinator (CCC), for the currency of their individual RFU coaching qualifications and Continuous Personal Development (CPD) participation.

2.18 Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU recommended procedures for taking young people on residential tours at home and abroad.

2.19 Know and abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the Policy and Procedures for the Welfare of Young People in Rugby Union.

2.20 Plan and deliver sessions which align with the rules laid down in the RFU Rugby Continuum.

2.21 Follow the FRFC pre and post-match procedures as set out in Appendices 1 & 2.

2.22 Ensure that players know, understand and respect the FRFC Players' Code of Conduct.

**3 FRFC PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**
 **FRFC players should:**

3.01 Know, understand and respect the RFU core values, namely:

Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

3.02 Recognise that every player and official in rugby has a right to expect their involvement to be safe and free from all types of abuse.

3.03 Remember that coaches will prioritise fun, enjoyment, and skill development, as well as performance, as the most important aspects of games and coaching sessions.

3.04 Be punctual, reliable and properly equipped.

3.05 Communicate in advance with team administrator in the event of their unavailability to play or train.

3.06 Be attentive and positive at all training and coaching sessions.

3.07 Feel able to offer constructive feedback to their coach and team mates in an appropriate manner.

3.08 Work equally hard for themselves and their team.

3.09 Be sportsmanlike - win with dignity, lose with grace and recognise good play by all players on both teams.

3.10 Play to the iRB Laws of the Game and accept all Referees' and Match Officials' decisions - never showing dissent.

3.11 Recognise that verbal or physical abuse of team mates, opponents, coaches, match officials and/or spectators is not acceptable and will not be tolerated and should never behave in a way that could be considered to be bullying.

3.12 Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, match officials and administrators in providing them the opportunity to play rugby and enjoy the rugby environment.

**4 FRFC PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FRFC requests that Parents and Guardians of FRFC players should:**

4.01 Understand that FRFC fully endorses the RFU core values, namely:
Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

4.02 Encourage their child(ren) to follow the FRFC Players' Code of Conduct.

4.03 Feel able to offer constructive feedback to their child's coach in an appropriate manner and to share any other concerns, if they have them, with the relevant FRFC official.

4.04 Be familiar with the FRFC Coaches' Code of Conduct and, in particular, be aware that FRFC coaches:
• recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment, as well as performance, when coaching players; and
• understand the importance of keeping winning and losing in perspective - encouraging players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.

4.05 Try to focus on the players' efforts, rather than purely winning or losing.

4.06 Provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
4.07 Support FRFC in its efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.

4.08 Always show appreciation of good play by all players from both sides.

4.09 Respect decisions made by the Referee and Match Officials and encourage players to do likewise.

**5 FRFC SPECTATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FRFC encourages all its spectators to:**

5.01 Understand that FRFC fully endorses the RFU core values, namely:
Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

5.02 Be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidelines in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.

5.03 Remember children play sport primarily for their own enjoyment, not for that of spectators.

5.04 Be positive and acknowledge good individual and team performance from all players on both sides

5.05 Respect Referees' and Match Officials' decisions and always remember they are volunteers providing an opportunity for players to play rugby.

5.06 Never verbally abuse players, coaches, referees / match officials or fellow spectators.

5.07 Verbally encourage all players in a positive manner.

5.08 Encourage all players irrespective of their ability and to never ridicule any player.

5.09 Respect FRFCs responsibility to preserve a 2 metre clear zone around all marked out playing areas.

5.10 Abide by the FRFC Spectators Code of Conduct.

**Appendix 1**

**PRE-MATCH PROCEDURE**

1.01 When playing at home, meet and greet the referee and show them to their designated changing room.

1.02 When playing at home, meet and greet the opponents and their officials and show them to their designated changing room.

**Appendix 2**

**POST-MATCH PROCEDURE**

2.01 When playing at home make the Referee and any other Match Officials welcome in the clubhouse.

2.02 Remember that the Referee's jurisdiction is in place from the moment the Referee arrives at the Recreation Ground and remains in place until the Referee leaves the Recreation Ground.

2.03 For home and away games, in the event that there are any serious issues or concerns in relation to a Referee's or Match Official's performance these should only be disclosed to and discussed with one or all of the following: the FRFC Chairman, the FRFC Mini Chairman, the FRFC Junior Chairman, the FRFC Director of Rugby, the FRFC Club Referee Coordinator. Any such disclosure or discussion should take place as soon as possible after the match in question and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

2.04 For home and away games, in the event of foul play by an FRFC or opposition player that may warrant further reprimand or disciplinary action such as citing, this may be drawn to the attention of opposition club officials, where relevant, and should always be disclosed to and discussed with one or all of the following: the FRFC Chairman, the FRFC Mini Chairman, the FRFC Junior Chairman, the FRFC Director of Rugby, the FRFC Club Referee Coordinator. Any such disclosure or discussion should take place as soon as possible after the match in question and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

2.05 Any FRFC Referee or Match Official who considers that an FRFC player, coach or spectator is in breach of the FRFC Codes of Conduct should draw this to the attention of one or all of the following: the FRFC Chairman, the FRFC Mini Chairman, the FRFC Junior Chairman, the FRFC Director of Rugby, the FRFC Club Referee Coordinator. Any such disclosure or discussion should take place as soon as possible after the match in question and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Appendix 3**

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

3.01 Any FRFC member who is found to have breached the foregoing Codes of Conduct may be called before the FRFC Disciplinary Committee. The process for Discipline and Appeals is set out in the FRFC Constitution.