



Shelford Rugby Football Union Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct

Shelford Parents and Spectators shall:

1. Accept the referee's decisions with good grace. No ref = no game.
2. Not encourage any form of violence or practise against the laws of Rugby. Particularly not by shouts from the touchline.
3. Encourage, Support and Applaud all players on the field. Negative comments should not be shouted from the touchline.
4. Applaud all good play – NOT just your own team's.
5. Respect the opposition.
6. Please do not use foul or abusive language – this is a family club

The good parent's code:

Shelford encourages its parents to:

- (a) Be familiar with the coaching and training programme in order that they can ensure their child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their availability.
 - (b) Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing the coaching and training sessions in which their child participates.
 - (c) Be aware that the Club has a duty of care to ensure the safety of players and therefore, where appropriate, assist coaches with the supervision of the players, particularly where numbers are large and there is a need to transport players to away games.
 - (d) Be involved with Club activities and where necessary share their expertise.
 - (e) Share concerns, if they have them, with Club officials.
 - (f) Be familiar with the Good Coaches' Code contained in the Rugby Continuum.
- In particular be aware that:
- coaches should recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching players; and
 - coaches should keep winning and losing in perspective, encouraging players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- (g) Support coaches in instilling these virtues.
 - (h) Remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment not that of their parents.
 - (i) Encourage young people to play - do not force them.
 - (j) Focus on the players' efforts, rather than winning or losing.
 - (k) Be realistic about the players' abilities; do not push them towards a level that they are not capable of achieving.
 - (l) Provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
 - (m) Remember that persistent, negative messages will adversely affect the players' and referee's performance and attitude.
 - (n) Always support the Club and School in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
 - (o) Remember young people learn much by example.
 - (p) Always show appreciation of good play by all players both from their own Club or School and the opposition.
 - (q) Respect decisions made by the match officials, even if they appear to make a mistake, and encourage the players to do likewise.



The good spectator's code:

Shelford encourages its spectators to:

- (a) Act as positive role models to all players.
- (b) Be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.
- (c) Respect guidance from the Club or School with regard to spectator behaviour.
- (d) Remember children play sport primarily for their own enjoyment, not for that of the spectators.
- (e) Acknowledge good individual and team performance from all players irrespective of the team in which they play.
- (f) Respect match officials' decisions, even if they appear to make a mistake – remember, they are volunteers providing an opportunity for players to play rugby.
- (g) Never verbally abuse players, coaches, match officials or fellow spectators: such behaviour can create a negative environment for players and their behaviour will often reflect this.
- (h) Acknowledge effort and good performance rather than 'to win at all costs'.
- (i) Verbally encourage all players in a positive manner, shouting 'for', not 'at', the players.
- (j) Encourage all players irrespective of their ability - never ridicule any individual player, regardless of the team in which they play.