

# BEHAVIOUR CHARTER

BUCS Rugby Union

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## Rugby is unique

Rugby owes much of its appeal to the fact that it is played both to the letter and within the spirit of the laws. The responsibility for ensuring that this happens lies not with one individual - it involves coaches, captains, players, match officials and spectators.


It is through discipline, control and mutual respect that the spirit of the game flourishes and, in the context of a game as physically challenging as rugby, these are the qualities which forge the fellowship and sense of fair play so essential to the game's ongoing success and survival.

Old-fashioned traditions and virtues they may be, but they have stood the test of time and, at all levels at which the game is played, they remain as important to rugby's future as they have been throughout its long and distinguished past. The principles of rugby are the fundamental elements upon which the game is based and they enable participants to immediately identify the game's character and what makes it distinctive as a sport.

Rugby is valued as a sport for all. It builds teamwork, understanding, co-operation and respect for fellow participants. Its cornerstones are, as they always have been:

- The pleasure of participating
- The courage and skill which the game demands
- The love of a team sport that enriches the lives of all involved
- The lifelong friendships forged through a shared interest in the game.

*World Rugby Charter*



## Institution charter

As a BUCS-affiliated institution, we understand the importance of making rugby union a positive, inclusive environment. To support this, we agree that;

- We will make our culture as open and inclusive as possible.
- We will abide by the spirit and values of the game of Rugby Union
- We will hold ourselves accountable for our actions and of those representing our club
- We will call out instances of our own spectators', staff' and players' poor behaviour
- We will actively and timely, report instances of poor behaviour at matches through the appropriate channels with honesty and transparency
- We will not engage in disrespectful or negative activity nor display signs or banners which use inflammatory, discriminatory or inappropriate language
- We will ensure our social media channels and posts reflect positive rugby values and content will refrain from being disrespectful, negative or inflammatory.

## Staff charter

As a member of staff who cares deeply about the sport and who wants to uphold the values of Rugby Union, I agree to;

- Be an exemplar of the principles of Fair Play and the values and laws of the game
- Show courtesy, consideration, kindness and respect to players, the opposition, match officials and spectators when playing home and away.
- Be mindful of creating and maintaining an inclusive environment
- Be an active listener
- Challenge all instances of negative behaviour

## Player charter

As a player who loves the game, I agree to;

- Show courtesy, consideration, kindness and respect for your teammates, the opposition, match officials and visitors when playing home and away.
- Treat all my teammates equally and respect other teammates' rights.
- Uphold the principles of Fair Play and the Laws of the Game
- Be open to talk to others about what makes them different and unique.
- Be positive in every contribution I make in the club.
- Make sure that all team members are included in club activities.
- Recognise that banter (teasing/joking talk) can become bullying behaviour. If a teammate asks me to stop the banter, I will
- Challenge negative language and behaviours (e.g., Racist, Disablist, Homophobic).
- Intervene safely, not confrontationally
- Report any anti-social behaviour to the club officials
- Accept victory and defeat, success and failure with dignity

## Spectator charter

Crowds play a huge role creating an atmosphere which motivates and inspires the players on the pitch and a positive crowd, behaving appropriately, can make a match truly memorable.

As a spectator who wants to contribute positively to this vision and experience, I agree to;

- Always be respectful towards all players and coaching staff
- Be respectful towards my fellow supporters, both from my team and the opposition
- Remain outside the field of play and to not confront players or a match official at any time
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.
- Report any anti-social behaviour to the stewards on duty
- Be mindful of the image and reputation of rugby and support its values and inclusivity
- Be an active listener
- Hold myself and my peers to account

#### Additional resources and information

- [Scottish Rugby Inclusion and Diversity strategy](#)
- [Scottish Rugby Equality and Inclusion handbook](#)
- [RFU Diversity and inclusion resources](#)
- [RFU Core Values](#)
- [WRU Wellbeing Centre](#)
- [WRU Codes of Conduct](#)
- [WRU Codes of Practice](#)

References/sources: ([Core Values \(englandrugby.com\)](#), [Charter | World Rugby Laws, 6261395a3de84b8187f96f8c\\_ABRE22\\_01 Charter for Sports ClubsSports Teams.pdf \(webflow.com\)](#), [Supporters' Charter at Bath Rugby](#), [Fair Play Charter - Aberystwyth Town Football Club \(atfc.org.uk\)](#).)