

# KILLORGLIN RFC



## Code of Conduct & Ethics

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## **CLUB ETHOS / OVERVIEW**

- It is the ethos of Killorglin Rugby Club, as a rugby club affiliated to the Irish Rugby Football Union, (IRFU), to actively promote rugby football as a positive contribution to the development of everyone in our care.
- Involvement in rugby is an opportunity for mental, physical and emotional development which is further enhanced if the Age Grade, ((Youth), player is guided and instructed by an informed, enlightened and caring coaching structure, working within an acceptable ethical framework.
- Killorglin RFC aims to establish and maintain high standards of ethical behaviour in its coaching structure and practice, by developing and following procedures for protecting the interests of Age Grade players.
- It is the policy and ethos of Killorglin Rugby Club and the IRFU to safeguard the welfare of our Age Grade players.
- Killorglin Rugby Club and the IRFU recognise and accept that in all matters regarding Child Protection, the welfare and protection of our Age Grade players is a priority.

## **OVERVIEW OF CODE OF ETHICS & SOURCES**

- a) It is the Club policy of Killorglin RFC to maintain its high reputation for ethical behaviour and fairness in the conduct of its activities.

In most cases decisions as to what is ethical or fair are clear cut and will be obvious to any reasonable person. In some situations, however, there may be an element of doubt, or ambiguity arises. To help in these circumstances, and to protect and guide the individuals within the club, it is necessary to have a written Code of Ethics.

- b) This written Code of Ethics, together with any subsequent amendments, forms part of the Regulations of Killorglin Rugby Club and should be used in conjunction with the Club's and the IRFU's Codes of Behaviour. Age Grade Rugby is deemed by Killorglin RFC to be the Youth section of the club as defined in the Club Constitution.
- c) The club will be aided in its objectives by reference to:
- [The IRFU Child Safeguarding Statement](#)
  - [The IRFU Safeguarding Policy](#)
  - [The IRFU Spirit of Rugby Charter](#)
  - [IRFU Spirit of Rugby - resources](#)

- [Sporting Ireland Governance Code](#)

d) This Code of Ethics was written with specific reference to Age Grade/ Youth coaches and players.

Most aspects of this Code are also applicable to all other people involved in the game, e.g. club officials and assistants.

Therefore all officials should be aware that this Code also applies to them and should familiarize themselves with the Code.

e) For the purposes of clarification the term “officials” will be used in this document, to mean all adults with either supervisory, coaching or management responsibility for players. The purpose in this document is to provide the guidelines for the behaviour of adults who are responsible in a club capacity.

f) This Code is part of the Killorglin Rugby Club / IRFU policy on Child Protection.

g) On receiving and reading this document officials must sign the Declaration of Intent, and hand the Declaration to the Club Youth Officer. This signed Declaration will be retained as part of the Club’s records.

h) The Killorglin Rugby Club Code of Ethics intended as a working model for our club, and is not suggested as a replacement, or a dilution of IRFU documents. At all times the club will be guided by the IRFU structures.

i) More information on the Code of Ethics is available on the IRFU website, the Sports Ireland website from the publications itemised at (c) above.

## **DISCLAIMER**

*Killorglin Rugby Club issues this Code of Ethics to assist, guide and encourage its membership to achieve Best Practices for the benefit of all of those involved in the Game of rugby. Members of Killorglin Rugby Club should however take their own advice as may be appropriate.*

*Killorglin Rugby Club cannot accept responsibility for supervising members and in particular disclaim liability for damage, loss to person or property arising from any neglect, default or omission by any member, or person acting on behalf of Killorglin Rugby Club.*

## **CODES OF CONDUCT & GUIDELINES.**

- Young people are the lifeblood of any sport and Irish Rugby is no different to other sports in this regard. We want to welcome young people into our club so that they can enjoy our great game.
- It is understood that parents are entitled to know that their children are involved and playing rugby in an environment that respects young peoples' safety, health, welfare and dignity.

### **What to look for when you join a club**

- Recruitment of leaders
- Child Welfare initiatives
- Safety and Best practice models in the club
- Adult to player ratios
- Training & playing schedule
- Selection, inclusion, playing and development
- Player registration and membership
- Codes of Conduct for players, coaches, spectators, parents and referees

### **What do we expect of our players?**

- All players to be registered.
- Membership fees to be paid on time as part of the player insurance.
- To be committed to the training and playing schedule of the club.
- To have the right attitude towards training, playing, teammates, leaders, selection and representing the club.
- To respect the Ethos, Laws of the Game and traditions of rugby.
- To have the appropriate training and playing kit:  
For matches:  
Club jersey/ shorts and sock and gum shield (properly fitted)  
For training:  
Jersey/ socks/ shorts/ gum shield – ensure kit is warm and safe (no zips/ strings or sharp edges etc.)

### **What do we expect of officials?**

- Should be recruited through the club recruitment policy.
- To go through relevant screening re: child welfare & vetting.
- Be appropriately qualified.
- Plan and prepare for matches & training sessions.
- Be fair when dealing with players and particularly when dealing with selection and inclusion issues.
- Set the right example and always be approachable

### **What do we expect of parents?**

- Always support your child in his/her efforts – don't let your ambitions rule their experience.
- Ensure your child has the required kit whether training or playing.
- Attend matches and training as much as possible.
- Volunteer to assist the club when available.
- Ensure you and your child are on time for sessions/ matches and especially when collecting your child after such events.
- Respect the club and volunteer efforts – join the club!
- Adhere to the Code of Conduct of the club.

### **What is expected of clubs?**

- Have a policy on child welfare, recruitment, best practice, selection, training and fixtures.
- Ensure adherence to all Codes of Conduct.
- Ensure all coaches are appropriately qualified.
- Appoint a Child Welfare Officer and ensure access for appropriate training.
- Committees (youth and mini) to meet regularly to ensure adherence to all club policies.
- Strive to create a safe environment for all rugby activities

The IRFU have a set of guidelines, to ensure that all participants in the Game of rugby are aware of their responsibilities, to treat each person with dignity and ensure enjoyment of the Game.

These Codes of Conduct are central to the structure of Killorglin Rugby Club and are intended as a working model for our club.

As a club we strive to achieve the highest standards of fairness, discipline and equality, ensuring the safety of all those in our care.

## **CODE FOR PLAYERS**

- Respect the “Game of Rugby” and play within the laws of the Game.
- Accept the referee’s decision and let your captain or coach ask any relevant questions.  
Play with control. Do not lose your temper.
- Always do your best and be committed to the game, your team and your club.  
Be a “good sport”. Applaud all good play whether by your team or the opposition.
- Respect your opponent. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not “bully” or take advantage of any player.
- Rugby is a team sport and make sure you co-operate with your coach; teammates and members of your club.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
- At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match.
- Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Tackle hard but fairly, do not intend to hurt your opponent.
- Winning and losing is part of sport: Win with humility – lose with dignity.
- As part of the team it is important that you attend training regularly and listen to your coach and help your team.
- As a team sport it is important to understand that all members are important to the team!
- Remember you are representing your team, club, family and the Game of Rugby.

## **CODE FOR PARENTS/GAURDIANS**

- Remember, young people play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours. Encourage your child always to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Teach young children that honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Help young people to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at young players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in the playing of rugby. If the child is to play, he/she will do so in good time through your encouragement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from rugby.
- As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or players. Do not publicly question the referees' judgement and never their honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.
- Identify and acknowledge the good qualities of the Game of Rugby and uphold these values.
- Remember you and your child's contribution to the Game of Rugby is very important to the IRFU and be proud of your contribution.
- Understand the value of team sport and the importance thereof.
- Seek and follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again and inform their coach.



## **CODE FOR COACHES**

- Remember that as a coach of an “age grade team” you are to act in “loco parentis” and to that extent your duty of care is more onerous than that of a coach to an adult team.
- Lead by example - young people need a coach whom they respect.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Never ridicule or shout at players for making mistakes or losing a match.
- Teach your players that the Laws of the Game are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Prepare young players for inter-class and inter-school activities.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the players’ time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Ensure that all players participate in matches. The “average” players require and deserve equal time.
- Remember that young players play for fun and enjoyment and that skill learning and playing for fun have priority over highly structured competition. Winning is not the only objective.
- Develop player and team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgement of referees and opposing coaches.
- Insist on fair play and disciplined play. Do not tolerate foul play, fighting or foul language. Be prepared to take off an offending player.
- Encourage young players to develop basic skills and sportsmanship. Avoid over specialisation in positional play during their formative years.
- Set realistic goals for the team and individual players and do not push young players into adult-like competitions.
- Create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to train and play. Do not over burden younger players with too much information.

- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and methods, and on the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Be aware of the effect you have on growing children.
- Never criticise the referee and touch judges during or after a match in front of players or spectators.
- Always thank the match officials and if they have made decisions which require clarification, discuss the problems after everyone has changed.
- Ensure that proper equipment and facilities are available at all times.
- Be responsible and ensure you uphold the ethos of the game and the IRFU. Attend coaching courses.
- Support the Code of Ethics and all policies regarding Children in Sport.
- Ensure you and your players are proud of your team, club and efforts during the season.
- Each coach will be obliged by Killorglin Rugby Club and the IRFU to sign a Declaration of Intent acknowledging their intention to adhere to the Code of Ethics as they apply to Youth Rugby.
- The final call on whether a player can continue playing after an injury is with the referee, regardless of if there is a qualified medical person on the sideline that says they can. A referee has the authority to remove the player from the game for the player's safety and in this scenario the referee's decision is final and must be obeyed by the player, coaches, and spectators.

## **Code For Spectators**

- Remember that although young people play organised rugby they are not” miniature internationals.”
- Be on your best behaviour and lead by example. Do not use profane language or harass referees, players, or coaches.
- Applaud good play by the visiting team as well as your own.
- Show respect for your team’s opponents. Without them there would not be a match. Condemn the use of violence in all forms at every opportunity.
- Verbal abuse of players or referees cannot be accepted in any shape of form. Players or referees are not fair targets for ignorant behaviour.
- Encourage young players to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Spectators can contribute to the enjoyment of the event and all involved. Be proud of your club and the Game of Rugby.

## **Version Control**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Change made</b>	<b>Reason</b>
05/08/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wording added in relation to referees having final say when player comes back on pitch if injured.</li><li>• Links updated.</li><li>• Recommendation for health insurance added</li></ul>	Annual Review

## **DECLARATION OF INTENT**

Every rugby club is required to act in accordance with the regulations and guidelines in this document and a sign a Declaration of Intent to that effect.

All age grade volunteers (coaches/managers/referees and/or any team assistants) are to receive a copy of the [Child Welfare document](#) and after reading the document sign the Declaration of Intent page and hand it to the Club Child Welfare Officer for record keeping in the club.

It is important to note that clubs are responsible for the recruitment and screening of volunteers & therefore must have suitable policies in place.

## RISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION – Declaration of Intent

I, \_\_\_\_\_ Coach/ Manager / Assistant)

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (day / month. / year)

**Of Killorglin Rugby Club**

I hereby, acknowledge that I have received a copy of the [IRFU Child Welfare Policy Document](#) and the [Killorglin RFC Child Safeguarding Statement](#). I also acknowledge that I have read this document and hereby declare my intention to adhere to the IRFU's Child Welfare Document and Policies regarding Child Welfare in the IRFU

I will also support initiatives by the IRFU & the Irish Sports Council & on matters relating to Children's Sport in Ireland

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Received on:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Club Child Welfare Officer)

*All age grade volunteers (coaches/ managers/referees and/or any team assistants) to receive a copy of the Child Welfare document and after reading the document sign this page and hand it to the Club Child Welfare Officer for record keeping in the club.*

**It is important to note that clubs are responsible for the recruitment and screening of volunteers & therefore must have policies in place.**

**\*Please Note:** Killorglin RFC highly recommends that all players have health insurance to cover the costs of physio and medical costs if required.