



Petersham Rugby Union Football Club

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct outlines the standards expected of all Petersham RUFC members, both on and off the field, in all club and rugby-related activities.

Petersham RUFC has a proud and distinguished history built on respect, sportsmanship and strong values. All members are expected to uphold these traditions and the spirit of rugby at all times. This Code applies equally to players, coaches, managers, officials and supporters.

General Conduct Expectations

All members must:

- Avoid any behaviour that may bring the club or the game of rugby into disrepute.
- Show respect to opponents, match officials and the public.
- Comply with reasonable directions from match officials or host club officials.
- Never engage in behaviour or comments that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate or threaten others.
- Display good sportsmanship before, during and after matches, regardless of the result.
- Behave courteously and respectfully at post-match functions, social events, tours and trips.

Player Responsibilities

Players must:

- Not verbally abuse referees or show dissent toward match officials.
- Communicate with referees only through the team captain, and always respectfully.
- Play within the Laws of the Game.
- Understand that repeated foul play or misconduct may lead to disciplinary action by the committee.

Breaches of the Code

Any breach of this Code may result in disciplinary action by the committee in accordance with the club constitution.

Referee Abuse – Zero Tolerance

Referee abuse is taken seriously across rugby and may result in suspension. If a player is sent off for referee abuse, the offence may be graded as high, mid or low level, with penalties determined by the relevant judiciary process.

Serious offences may attract significant suspensions, while lower-level matters may consider prior playing record and circumstances.

Important Reminder

Players must not question referee decisions.

If concerns arise about decisions or interpretations, they must be raised only through the captain at an appropriate time.

Comments made within earshot of a referee may be treated as abuse, even if not directly addressed to them.

Final Principle

Show referees the same respect you would expect from yourself. Discipline and self-control protect your teammates, your club and the traditions of Petersham RUFC.

The referee does not need your help to run the match.

