



CODE OF CONDUCT

16th September 2025

“Improvement Never Ends”



INTRODUCTION

The Barnes RFC Youth division, comprising Minis, Juniors and Colts, is growing in size and in competitiveness. Both trends bring different pressures while trying to preserve the essence of what makes Barnes such a great place to play rugby and make great friends. We all want Barnes Rugby to be a space and place for all to thrive.

The leadership of the club, the Youth division and the head coaches of each age group decided it would be useful to lay out our expectations of the conduct of all players, parents and coaches when representing Barnes Youth Rugby.

We begin with a foreword from our ex-Chairman and now President, Michael Whitfield, who outlined what we are seeking to achieve in the Youth section of the club some years ago. We are delighted to see the “One Club” ethos impact the wider community as well as our membership.

Our Ask of You:

- Parents and coaches alike, please make yourself familiar with the following information and take the time to build the understanding of the contents with your children
- Keep in mind that for us “**Improvement never ends**”
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact safeguarding Officer, Michelle Morton at: safeguarding@barnesyouthrugby.org, or on mobile: 07961 174704.



PRESIDENT's FOREWORD



MICHAEL WHITFIELD
("Rhino")

Barnes RFC President

“ We all start playing rugby at different ages and it is those early influences: coaches, environments, clubs, friends, etc. that determine your path in later rugby life.

I want Barnes Rugby Club to be the best enabler to a **life-long love of the game, whether as a player, coach or spectator**. That means we at Barnes Rugby Club set out and deliver a consistent, sustainable message about how we play and behave on and off the pitch.

It is vital that we have committed coaches and referees who embrace **our culture and values** and develop themselves as much as they want to, never pushed, but always supported and encouraged. The examples they set will permeate through to the players, and as importantly the parents who support.

Along with our approach to playing, our culture and values are by far and away the most important to me: **One Club, Our History, and the camaraderie of the club**. “Play in the Original Spirit”!

”



Our Enduring Values – defined in 2016



Fun & Inclusive

We value player inclusion and enjoyment above winning

"One Club" Spirit & Loyalty

Proud to support and contribute to all levels of Barnes RFC

The Will to Win

The 'will-to-win' counts more than winning itself

Long Term Player Development

Continually re-assess the best ways to develop all players

Admired and Respected by Others

Ambassadors of the club, known for sportsmanship and integrity



OUR VISION

BEYOND WINNING

Our aim is to ensure that every individual involved with Barnes Rugby achieves their full potential both on - and more importantly - off the field.



**1,000
RUGBY LOVERS**
(Parents, Players, Coaches)

**FEEDER TO
BARNES RFC**

**COMMUNITY
CLUB**



OUR MISSION (1/2) ... inside Barnes teams



PURE ENJOYMENT

Barnes Rugby is about building amazing memories with smiles all the way. We always stand for fun, inclusion and respect.

TEAMMATES FOR LIFE

Barnes Rugby is the place where great friendships are made and nurtured for life. 'Club' is forever.





OUR MISSION (2/2) ... inside Barnes teams



CONFIDENCE IS EVERYTHING

Confidence is an anchor point in an increasingly hectic world. Barnes Rugby is the place to find confidence, build confidence and let it prosper.

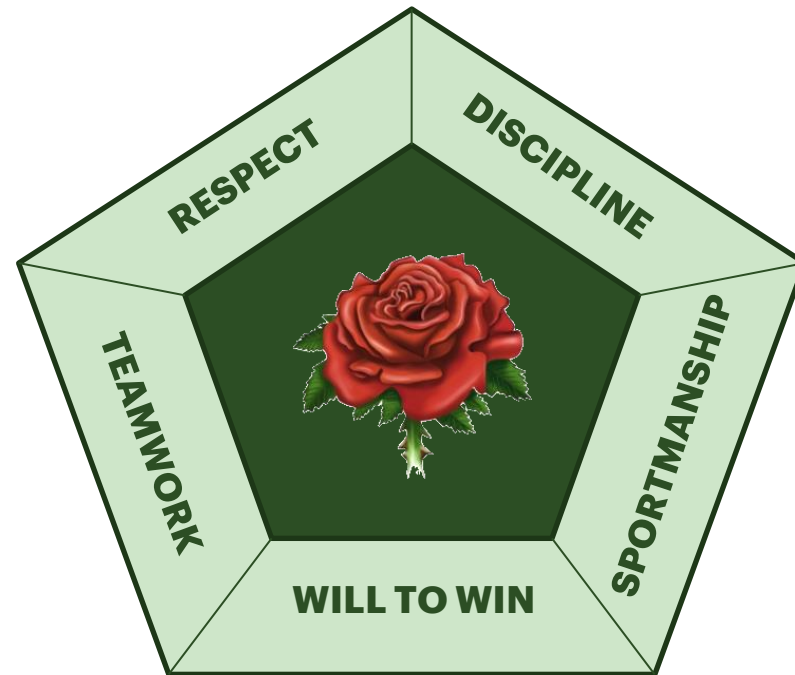
HEALTHY ACTIVITY

Barnes Rugby builds core skills, game awareness and competitive nous. We learn to love the thrill of exercise, being physically prepared and occasionally getting sweaty and muddy.





Players' Code of Conduct



- We are always respectful of our teammates, club mates, coaches, referees and our opponents
- We always represent and promote Barnes RFC in a positive manner
- We have good behaviour in and around the club house and rugby venues

- We play to win as a team, not as individuals
- We work hard to support our teammates in attack and defence
- We welcome new players, build lasting friendships in the club and involve every teammate in match play

- We recognise the 'will-to-win' counts more than winning itself
- We take positives from every match
- We remain committed and enthusiastic when times are hard

- We listen and respond to coaches and referees
- We focus on high quality execution of training
- We comply with the laws of rugby in competitive fixtures

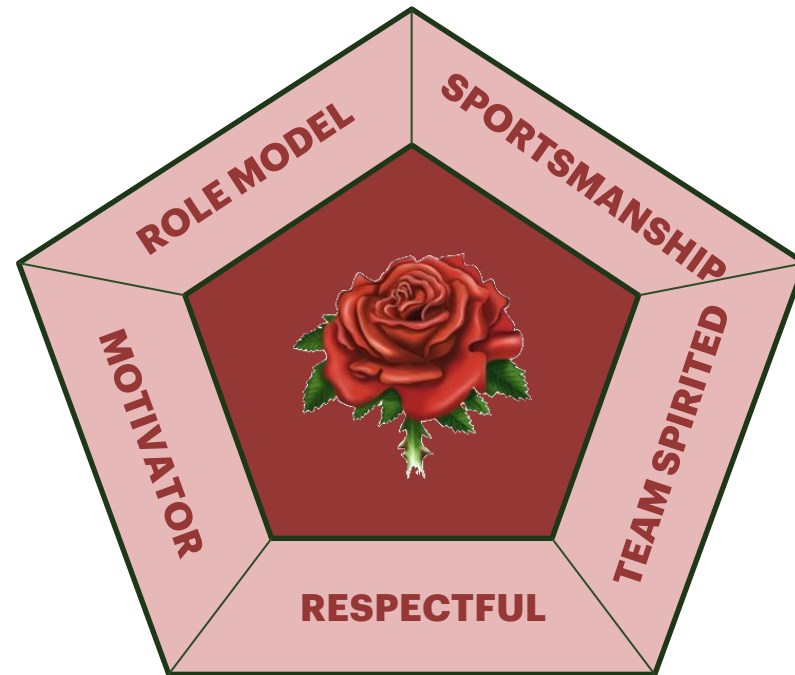
- We are gracious in defeat and humble in victory
- We applaud the opposition when they recover from injury or leave the field due to injury
- We celebrate all matches with 'three-cheers' and handshakes



Parents' Code of Conduct

- Set the standards of behaviour and integrity for kids to follow
- Retain self-discipline at all times
- Make Barnes Minis a place where local kids want to participate in sport, build friendships and grow as a well-rounded individuals

- Encourage the players, and competitors, at all times
- Focus on skills execution and processes that are going well, not on the result of a match
- Be unconditionally supportive in the car ride home after training or a festival



- Be courteous and friendly to opposition, coaches, match officials and parents
- Applaud great rugby from any team and support the whole team, not just individuals
- If you are compelled to shout, only shout encouragement!

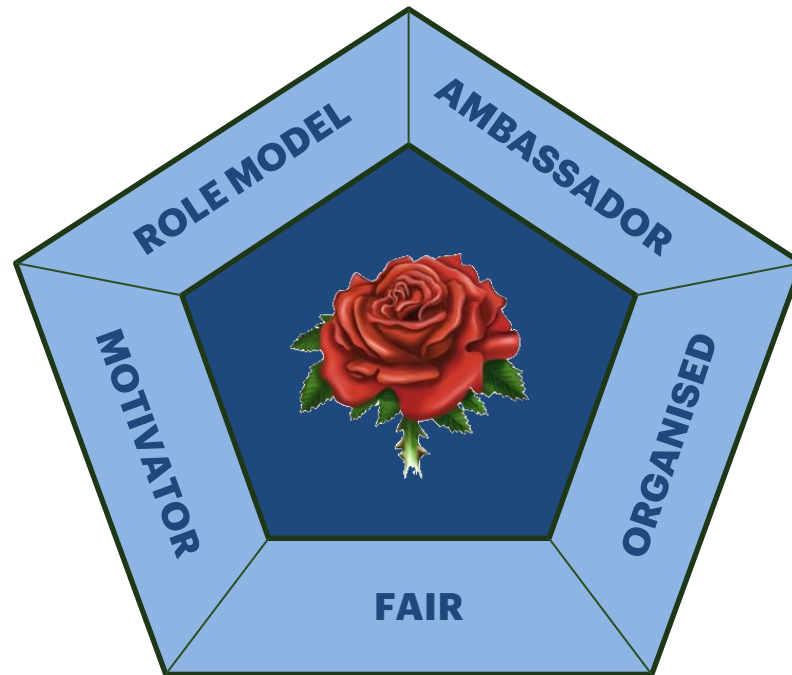
- Understand the parent's role in promoting and reinforcing the code of conduct and ethos of the club
- Understand that parents are as much part of the team as the coaching staff and the players
- Keep availability for fixtures up to date and try to avoid letting the team down when selected to play

- Respect that coaches and officials are all volunteers
- Respect the decisions of coaches and officials regarding team selection, substitutions, and adherence to the laws of the game
- Adhere to medical advice from the Return to Play medics and volunteer First Aiders



Coaches' Code of Conduct

- Set the standards of behaviour and integrity for kids and parents to follow
- Make Barnes Rugby a place where local kids want to participate in sport, build friendships and grow as well-rounded individuals
- Remain positive at all times, especially if results are going against the team
- Lead by example with honesty and openness
- Build confidence in the players, focusing on positive progress in core skills and processes
- Make players want to come back next week!



- Be an ambassador for the club in all interactions with other teams and officials
- Avoid exerting undue pressure on players or officials
- Retain self-discipline at all times - never swear or use abusive language

- Be well-planned, well-organised and punctual
- Be clear to players and parents on the objectives and goals of each session or fixture
- Create an environment where enjoyable and competitive rugby will flourish

- Adopt a 'Player-First' mentality, placing players in the best group for their development, ensuring movement between groups when they are ready
- Rotate first and second receivers, allowing players to experience different positions
- Learn and share new coaching techniques across age groups



PRACTICAL SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS FOR COACHES

Our Objective

Maintaining and nurturing a safe, responsible, respectful and caring environment. As we aim to 'achieve' and 'have fun', it is equally important that we do so **responsibly**.

Do's

- ✓ Make training fun – and safe! Adhere to best practice for your age grade
- ✓ Speak up if you feel something is not right – contact Michelle Morton
- ✓ Appoint a lead first-aider for training and matches
- ✓ Log concussions and injuries in 'Return to Play' system
- ✓ Recap Safeguarding online training

Don'ts

- ✗ Tackle on rock-hard ground
- ✗ Play contact rugby between adults and kids
- ✗ Unnecessary contact with kids
- ✗ Use exercise as punishment
- ✗ Let a player return to the field after concussion, before doctor has advised to return to play

More guidance at <https://www.rugby-league.com/uploads/docs/Managing%20Challenging%20Behaviour%20Policy.pdf>.

RFU Code of Practice: https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/ab/aba417df-0157-40a8-9c4a-a9041f3a6d08/Codes%20of%20Practice.pdf?fbclid=IwAROf_blv8BXFQbcjmmsOojDpdc7w9otitpVa-Z3REN0iHqeDCHT8wkcWPUo



**BARNES
RUGBY**
MINIS AND JUNIORS

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www.barnesrfc.org



[barnesyouthrugby](https://www.instagram.com/barnesyouthrugby)