



Canada Rugby League Association

(CRLA)

Code of Conduct

By-law Adopted October 26, 2023



Canada Rugby League Association | Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct: Coach

- Actively discourage foul play and/or unsportsmanlike behavior by players.
- Seek to maximize the participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability; avoid the tendency to over-use a talented player; treat all players as equals, regardless of their talent.
- Show concern and caution towards all sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician and/or sports trainer to the letter when determining in junior matches.
- Teach players that an honest effort and competing to the best of their ability is as important as victory.
- Maintain appropriate, professional relationships with players at all times.
- Never engage in public criticism of any person
- Never engage in inappropriate behavior on social media or post inappropriate comments or pictures/videos
- Never fraternize with players outside official duties
- No smoking or vaping whilst on duty or in CRLA apparel
- Maintain a thorough knowledge of the rules of the game and keep abreast of current coaching methods; maintain or improve your current accreditation level.
- Always consider the health, safety and welfare of the players.
- Teach young players to realize that there is a big gap between their play and the professional game; do not coach them as if they are professionals.
- Ensure that your coaching reflects the level of the competition being played; do not be a “winner-at-all-costs” coach.



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- As coach, conduct yourself at all times in a manner, and in all situations, that shows leadership, respect for the game of Rugby League and respect for all those that are involved in the game – the players, officials, the fans, the parents, the referees and the media.
- No CRLA Affiliate shall associate himself in any capacity way with any persons or entities that are not in good standing with the CRLA.



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Code of Conduct: Player

- Be a good sport. Respect all good play whether from your team or the opposition and shake hands with and thank the opposition players and officials after the game – win, lose or draw.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Always respect the referee's decision.
- Never become involved in acts of foul play
- Never engage in public criticism of any person
- Never smoke or vape whilst in CRLA apparel, during training and games
- Never engage in inappropriate behavior on social media or post inappropriate comments or pictures/videos
- Honour both the spirit and letter of the competition rules and live up to the highest ideals of ethics and sportsmanship; avoid gamesmanship and respect the traditions of the game.
- Never engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting or other actions that are demeaning to other players, officials or supporters.
- Care for and respect the facilities and equipment made available to you during training and competition.
- Safeguard your health; don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances.
- Recognize that many officials, coaches and referees are volunteers who give up their time to provide their services. Treat them with the utmost respect.
- Do not bet or otherwise financially speculate, directly or indirectly, on the outcome or any other aspect of a Rugby League match or competition in which you are involved.
- No CRLA Affiliate shall associate himself in any capacity way with any persons or entities that are not in good standing with the CRLA



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Code of Conduct: Referee, Touch Judge & Official

- Be impartial! also, be consistent, objective and courteous.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else; be alert to minimize dangerous physical play, fair or foul, especially in junior matches.
- Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
- Avoid any form of verbal contact with coaches, team officials, parents and spectators during play.
- Avoid any situation, which may lead to a conflict of interest, both on and off the field.
- Maintain an appropriate level of fitness for the standard of game at which you are officiating.
- Condemn all and every instance of unsportsmanlike, foul or unfair play.
- Set a good example by the way you dress, speak and act towards players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players.
- Officiate to the age and/or experience of the players.
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Code of Conduct: Spectators, Parents

- Condemn all violent or illegal acts, whether they are by players, coaches, officials, parents or spectators.
- Respect the referee's decisions – don't complain or argue about calls or decisions during or after a game.
- Behave! Unsportsmanlike language, harassment or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Encourage players to play by the rules and to respect opposition players and officials.
- Never ridicule or scorn a player for making a mistake – respect their efforts.
- Understand that sport is part of a total life experience, and the benefits of involvement go far beyond the final score of a game.
- Participate in positive cheering that encourages the players in the team you are supporting; do not engage in any cheering that taunts or intimidates opponents, their fans or officials.
- Remember that children participate in Rugby League for their own enjoyment, not yours!
- At all times, follow the directions of the Ground Manager and/or other match day staff.
- Never arrive at a Junior League game under the influence of alcohol, never bring alcohol to a Junior League game and only drink alcohol, if it is available, in a responsible manner in the designated licensed area



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Code of Conduct – Volunteer, Administrator

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, players, coaches, managers, parents, CRLA staff and spectators
- Adhere to the playing laws, operational rules and spirit of the game
- Demonstrate high standards of personal behavior
- Always respect the match official's decision
- Never engage in public criticism of any person
- No smoking or vaping whilst on duty or in CRLA apparel
- Never engage in inappropriate behavior on social media or post inappropriate comments or pictures/videos
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior
- Adhere to Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Vulnerable Groups guidelines
- Ensure that all operations are under the supervision of appropriately staff who have been through the required recruitment and selection checks
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Code of Conduct: Penalties

1. No person/s attending a match shall:
 - a) Use offensive or obscene language to any player, coach, referee, touch judge, official or other spectator;
 - b) Enter the Field of Play during the course of a match without the prior approval of the Ground Manager appointed by the home club and/or league;
 - c) Dispute the decision of a referee or touch judge either during or after a match;
 - d) Assault or act with aggression to any person/s;
 - e) Behave in a way contrary to this Code of Conduct and/or the spirit of the game;
 - f) Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of the match by any other person/s, or brings discredit to the home club and/or league;
 - g) Act in such a way as to exhibit racial intolerance, by language or other conduct, to any other person/s;
 - h) Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the Ground Manager, official of the home club and/or league, or official of the team/club, which that person/s is supporting.

2. Any person/s-contravening **Rule 1** may be reported by the Ground Manager to the Team Manager or other official of the team which that person/s is supporting. Where a team does not have a Team Manager present, a request or direction from the Ground Manager to any official of the team or the team's club shall be regarded as a direction to the Team Manager for the purposes of this Code.

3. The Ground Manager and/or Team Manager must advise the offending person/s of the relevant breach of the Code. The Ground Manager must note the details of their report to the Team Manager on the reverse of the team sheet.



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4. In the event that the inappropriate conduct continues, the Ground Manager and/or Team Manager may request the offender/s to immediately leave the ground. This should also be noted on the team sheet.
5. In the event the person/s refuses to obey the direction of the Ground Manager and/or Team Manager, the Ground Manager may direct the referee to terminate the match. In the event that the match is so terminated, the club's and/or league's committee may, at its absolute discretion award the competition points to the non-offending team, or declare that neither side shall be awarded competition points for that match.
6. Clubs which do not exercise control over their players, parents/careers of players, coaches, officials or spectators may be called upon by the league to accept responsibility for their actions and the below penalties may apply (in addition to penalties which may be imposed by the CRLA's judiciary):
7. Staff/Coaches/Volunteers who do not adhere to the code of conduct may be called upon by CRLA to accept responsibility for their actions and penalties may be imposed by the CRLA's judiciary.