

## **SPARC Coaches' Code of Ethics**

Following is the SPARC Coaches' Code of Ethics. The NZRU is a signatory to the code and therefore all NZRU registered coaches must abide by the Code.

- 1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual as a human being**
    - Treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin or religion.
    - Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each player in order to help each player reach their full potential.
  
  - 2. Maintain high standards of integrity**
    - Operate within the rules of your sport and in the spirit of fair play, while encouraging your players to do the same.
    - Advocate an environment free of drugs and other performance-enhancing substances within the guidelines of the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency and the World Anti-Doping Code.
    - Do not disclose any confidential information relating to players without their written prior consent.
  
  - 3. Be a positive role model and act in a way that projects a positive image of coaching**
    - All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
    - Ensure the players's time spent with you is a positive experience.
    - Be fair, considerate and honest with players.
    - Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle – refrain from smoking and drinking alcohol around players.
  
  - 4. Professional Responsibilities**
    - Display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation.
    - Display control, courtesy, respect, honesty, dignity and professionalism to all involved within the sphere of rugby – this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators.
    - Encourage your players to demonstrate the same qualities.
    - Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions.
    - You should not only refrain from initiating a sexual relationship with a player, but should also discourage any attempt by a player to initiate a sexual relationship with you, explaining the ethical basis of your refusal.
    - Accurately represent personal coaching qualifications, experience, competence and affiliations.
    - Refrain from criticism of other coaches and players.
  
  - 5. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your players**
    - Seek continual improvement through ongoing coach education, and other personal and professional development opportunities.
    - Provide players with planned and structured training programmes appropriate to their needs and goals.
    - Seek advice and assistance from professionals when additional expertise is required.
    - Maintain appropriate records.
  
  - 6. Provide a safe environment for training and competition**
    - Adopt appropriate risk management strategies to ensure that the training and/or competition environment is safe.
    - Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
    - Ensure equipment, rules, training and the environment are appropriate for the age, physical and emotional maturity, experience and ability of the players.
    - Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players.
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- Allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.
- Encourage players to seek medical advice when required.
- Provide a modified training programme where appropriate.
- Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured players as you would to healthy players.

**7. Protect your players from any form of personal abuse**

- Refrain from any form of verbal, physical or emotional abuse towards your players.
- Refrain from any form of sexual or racial harassment, whether verbal or physical.
- Do not harass, abuse or discriminate against players on the basis of their sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religious or ethical beliefs, race, colour, ethnic origins, employment status, disability or distinguishing characteristics.
- Any physical contact with players should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards players from other sources while in your care.

Coaches should:

- Be treated with respect and openness
- Have access to self-improvement opportunities
- Be matched with a level of coaching appropriate to the ability

*visit [www.sparc.org.nz](http://www.sparc.org.nz)*

to download and tailor the Coaches' Code of Ethics Agreement Form

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