

## THE GOOD MATCH OFFICIAL'S CODE

### MATCH OFFICIALS SHOULD:

- ✿ Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating players.
- ✿ Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner during games.
- ✿ Emphasise the spirit of the game..
- ✿ Appreciate the needs of the players before the needs of the sport.
- ✿ Understand the physical and behavioural development of players.
- ✿ Be a positive role model. Set an example, and as such, comments should be positive and supportive.
- ✿ Look to self-improvement e.g. participation in training courses.
- ✿ Recognise that the safety of players is paramount.
- ✿ Explain decisions - all players are still learning and parents will understand the game better.
- ✿ Always penalise foul play.
- ✿ Play advantage whenever possible in order to let the game flow.
- ✿ Show empathy for the age and ability of players.
- ✿ Be consistent and objective.
- ✿ Be familiar with the Good Spectator's Code and ensure that verbal abuse from players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated and is dealt with by club officials immediately.
- ✿ Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.
- ✿ Officiate to the rules laid down in the Rugby Continuum and keep themselves updated on rule changes.
- ✿ Check that the home Club has provided a qualified first aider, ambulance access has not been obstructed and that appropriate equipment is available along with someone trained in its use before starting play.
- ✿ Before training sessions and matches check that studs and other clothing are in accordance with the iRB Laws of the Game.