



HARLEQUIN JUNIOR RUGBY

OUR VALUES

“The ethos of rugby has shaped a code of behaviour that has transcended generations since 1823. Its time-honoured legacy creates a broader social environment for the sport that engages the family and community and strengthens the ties that bind Australia together.

Rugby Union is a game that develops leadership, team spirit, courage, sportsmanship, and friendship. These values and traditions develop from the first time a young player shakes hands with their opposite number, leading to a lifelong passion for and involvement with the game at all levels.”

- Try Rugby: Values of the Game

The Harlequin Rugby Club was founded in 1928. Many great players started their rugby careers with Quins as children – many have represented their state and some their country. Others have gone on to become officials, administrators, Quins parents and supporters. Their contributions over the years have modelled the club into what it is today. It’s a culture and tradition that we current members have a duty to protect. These Values govern our behaviour, our expectations and the formulation of policies.



DIGNITY & RESPECT

- Respect for the game itself: its rules, traditions and protocols. Good sportsmanship demands that coaches, managers, parents and supporters set an example. Lose with dignity and win with grace, remembering that we usually learn more from a loss than when we win.
- Sledging and gamesmanship do not belong in rugby. We encourage our children to stay focused on the game and their role within it and to let their actions speak for themselves.

“If you lose say very little, if you win say even less” – Paul Sheahan.

- Respect for the club, for self and for others; understanding and embracing our club’s traditions and those of the rugby code; controlling temper, shaking hands and forming a guard after the game, apologising for a mistimed tackle, referring to the referee as “Sir” and offering 3 cheers for his work.
- Respect for match officials; remembering that most are volunteers and acknowledging that, just like players, referees will make mistakes.
- Respect for the coaches, managers and for those who volunteer their time to do the essential, unseen or unpopular jobs. Introduce yourself, say “thanks” and show appreciation for their support.

“The whole point of rugby is that it first and foremost a state of mind, a spirit.” - Jean-Pierre Rives.

EFFORT & ACHIEVEMENT

- We want our children to give every effort to achieve their full potential; we want them to get to where they never thought they could. We encourage them to push themselves to their limits and support them beyond.
- Every player, no matter what their skill level, should feel they can achieve a personal goal within the team, whether it be an U6 learning to catch and pass, an U12 gaining the confidence to tackle big forwards or representing the Rebels.
- Every team can achieve a goal, despite their position on the ladder or even when all hope of winning a game has gone. Our goals may need to be adjusted but it is important to always have them.
- Coaches and parents are there to help these children achieve their potential through encouragement and support; helping them overcome their fears and doubts.

“All coaching is taking a player where he can't take himself.” – Bill McCartney

TEAMWORK & PARTICIPATION

- The junior club is made up by lots of individuals; a small contribution from everyone involved with the club lessens the load and results in a sustainable club structure. Whether it's attending a social function, running a touch line, cutting the oranges or washing the jerseys, every little effort helps.
- The more we put in, the more we get out of it. The more involved you get in the club the more enjoyment you'll derive from it.

Remember, our coaches, managers and administrators are parents, just like you – but they have put up their hand to help your child as well as their own.

- Junior rugby is not just about winning and not every junior will go on to play senior rugby. Above everything our juniors must have a memorable and positive experience during their time at the club. We aim to strike a balance between success and fairness.
- The rugby community is large, diverse and friendly. We want to keep it that way. Confrontation should be avoided; more diplomatic and effective alternatives are always available.
- Rugby is unselfish and focused on team play achievement. Its rugged nature is balanced by the concepts of fair play, sportsmanship, fun and friendship. Teamwork involves sharing the ball, playing out of position, spending time on the bench. Our team rotation policies give all players a fair go.

“Ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club.” – with apologies to JF Kennedy

EXCELLENCE & PROFESSIONALISM

- We encourage our coaches and referees to continue to develop their skills through courses offered through the ARU and VRU. The club subsidises these courses.
- We encourage parents to help at practice and to train to be a coach or referee. This improves our children's chances of development and their enjoyment of the game.
- We recognise the importance of good administration, communication and consultation in the ongoing success of the club.
- Setting a professional example; we are all representatives of the club, our behaviour should set a benchmark for our juniors and be consistent with the spirit of rugby.
- We believe that if we follow the principles outlined in our values then on-field success will follow.

“Rugby engenders an abiding passion - an intensely personal pleasure in playing or watching. It creates an unaffected joy.” – Try Rugby: Values of the Game

10 Points to remember as a Parent and Supporter

1. Children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
2. Encourage children to participate – do not force participation upon them.
3. Focus on the child's efforts and self-esteem rather than whether they win or lose.
4. Encourage children to always participate according to the Laws.
5. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or for the team losing a game.
6. Remember that children learn best by example – applaud the efforts of all players in both teams.
7. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from the game.
8. Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, referees, officials and administrators - without whom your child could not participate.
9. Respect the referee's decisions, never question their honesty and teach children to do likewise.
10. Remember that smoking and the consumption of alcohol is incompatible with junior sport.