



Ballymena RFC - Youth Player Declaration

Dear Youth Player,

This document contains extracts from the Ballymena Child Protection Policy (soon to be known as the Club Welfare Policy). The club is keen to ensure that all relevant age grade players are aware that such a policy exists, its broad concepts and that in the club there are people and processes for ensuring it is implemented and complied with. Also that there is support for anyone who feels they require it as a result of being subjected to discrimination, bullying or abuse. The complete club policy along with the new IRFU Safeguarding document is available to view on the club web site. You are being asked to sign on page two that you have read this letter and that you agree to abide by the extracts and our club policy.

Codes of Conduct

It is essential for everyone involved in the club to be made aware of the behavioural standards required at Ballymena RFC and what is and is not acceptable. All players and volunteers should be aware of the acceptable general code of conduct below:

- No foul or abusive language.
- No bullying.
- Respect other participants.
- Be on time.

Ballymena RFC shall use the club web site to make available copies of its policy, codes of conduct and handbooks and everyone is asked to make themselves familiar with the contents of each.

Ballymena RFC Coaches, Player and Parent Charters/Conduct are at Appendices 7, 12 and 13 to the club policy and they summarise in point form the standards which are deemed acceptable / unacceptable by Ballymena RFC. The club may take appropriate action against anyone who is proven to be in breach of these codes of conduct.

Extracts from the Policy which are especially important and relevant to Age Grade players are as follows;

Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs & Bullying Policy

Smoking

- It is illegal to sell cigarettes to anyone under the legal age.
- Anyone who does not comply with the Smoke Free Law will be committing a criminal offence. Smoking is prohibited within all Ballymena RFC buildings and breach of this important safety rule may result in removal from the club. Smokers are also required not to smoke immediately outside any open entrance to the clubhouse, due to passive smoking implications.
- Every individual has the right to a "smoke free" clubhouse. Only those who are the appropriate legal age should be allowed to smoke on club property. Anyone found smoking who is not the legal age should be requested to extinguish the cigarette and if appropriate their guardian / carer informed of the incident. Smoking should be avoided by the Age-Grade Player. Smoking is a serious health risk. It should play no part in a player's lifestyle.

Alcohol

- Alcohol should only be consumed on club property by those who are the appropriate legal age. Anyone under the legal age found to be drinking on club property should be requested to stop and if appropriate their guardian / carer informed of the incident. It is a legal requirement not to sell alcohol to anyone under the appropriate age.
- Alcohol and alcohol advertising is part of everyday life. Young people are not only influenced by trends and peer pressures but are also exposed to constant alcohol advertising. These advertisements seek to make the consumption of alcohol acceptable and trendy and therefore making the awareness of the pitfalls of alcohol consumption more difficult. Sports Leaders should ensure Age-Grade Players are aware of the dangers of alcohol abuse.

Drugs

Ballymena RFC is concerned to provide a safe and healthy sporting environment. It recognises that this can be put at risk by those who misuse drugs to such an extent that it may affect their health, performance, conduct and relationships. The effects of drugs in sport can also create serious health and safety risks not only to the player but also fellow team mates and opposition. Substance abuse will not be tolerated and its discovery may lead to legal and club disciplinary action being taken. The following rules should be adhered to by all age grade players, coaches and helpers:

- Do not come to Ballymena RFC under the influence of non-prescribed drugs. Instances of this being discovered may be reported to a member of the Club Board of Directors, PSNI, Parents/Carer and appropriate social services.
- Do not bring non-prescribed drugs onto club premises. Instances of this being discovered may be reported to the Club Board of Directors, PSNI, Parents/Carer and appropriate social services.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about the side-effects of prescribed medications and inform your team coach if required.
- Offer support and advice to players who you suspect of suffering from alcohol or drug abuse: Do not “protect” them by keeping silent.
- Ask for assistance if you feel that matters are beyond your own control. Your request will be dealt with in strictest confidence subject to the provisions of the law.

Bullying

Bullying will not be tolerated by Ballymena RFC and is not an accepted behaviour towards anyone; be they young person, coach, volunteer or parent. All instances of alleged bullying will be investigated and appropriate actions will be taken by the Club officers. Anyone being bullied should not keep it to him / herself. Any incidence of bullying can be reported to a Coach or a parent who should then inform the CWO so that the correct protocol can then be followed.

Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

The Club Welfare Officer (CWO) details are on the notice board in the club foyer for contact details should you wish to talk to him regarding any Club Welfare / Safeguarding issue you may have.

Sometimes things can happen that make us feel down or bad, for example; being dropped from the team, getting injured or being picked on by another person. There is always someone you can talk to you about this. If you don't want to chat to the CWO then talk to a friend or family member and they will help you get assistance with your problem.

I hope you have a safe, fun and enjoyable season.

In Rugby

Director Community Rugby

In consultation with your parent / carer please sign and return the slip below to your head coach ASAP



Ballymena RFC Child Protection Policy Extract - YOUTH PLAYER'S DECLARATION

I have read the above extract and hereby declare my intention to adhere to club policy and guidelines.

Player Name..... Signature.....

TEAM..... DATE.....

I have seen and agree the player's declaration of intent to adhere to club policy and guidelines.

Player Parent/Carer Name Signature.....