



Reviewed and Updated: Mark Jones and Stephen Jones 2023
Next Review: January 2025

WALES RUGBY LEAGUE (WRL) CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

The Code of Conduct sets out the terms and conditions upon which a player or other squad member participates in an international representative game or international tournament.

By signing the Code of Conduct a player or other squad member agrees to comply with the terms of the Code of Conduct. Each player or other squad member acknowledges that the purpose of the Code of Conduct is:

- (a) to safeguard the integrity of WRL and any international test match or tournament;
- (b) to ensure that none of WRL, the RLIF, the organising game or tournament organising body or the sport of Rugby League are brought into disrepute; and
- (c) to ensure that the WRL and any game or tournament organising body can comply with its obligations to sponsors, licensees, broadcasters, public funders, host cities and towns, match venues, training venues and training bases.

Bound by Code of Conducts

1. The player or squad member agrees with WRL that he is bound by and will comply with the terms of this Code of Conduct and the terms of the contract documents which impose obligations on individual players or other squad members.

Public Confidence

2. No player or other squad member shall engage in any conduct that is detrimental to; bring into disrepute; act in a manner inconsistent with; act in a manner contrary to; or act in a manner prejudicial to the best interests, image or welfare of the game of WRL, Rugby League, the match or tournament organising body, RLIF, RLEF, RLWC.

3. No player or other squad member shall engage in any conduct that might impair confidence in the integrity of any representative match or tournament or the Game of Rugby League.

4. No player or other squad member shall engage in any conduct that might impair public confidence in the honesty or integrity of either their own or that of other squad members, match officials or players.

5. For the avoidance of doubt, paragraphs 2 to 4 apply to postings and/or messaging on social network sites (including but not limited to Facebook and Twitter).



Conduct Related to Matches

6. Every player and other squad member must ensure that every representative game or tournament, in which his participating nation is playing, is played at all times in a sportsmanlike, disciplined and professional manner.
7. Every player and other squad member shall accept and observe the authority and decisions of match officials made during, or in connection with, a match.
8. Every player and other squad member shall cooperate in ensuring that the spirit of the Laws of the Game is upheld.

Drugs and Alcohol

9. At all times, players and other squad members shall comply with the RLIF/UKAD Anti-Doping Rules and agrees that any breach of the RLIF/UKAD Anti-Doping Procedures shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures and sanctions set out in the RLIF Anti-Doping Rules. Each player and other squad members shall submit to drug testing in accordance with the Competition Rules.
10. Every player and other squad member shall conduct himself / herself at all times in public and at tournament related functions in a sober, courteous and professional manner.

Harassment and Criticism of Match Officials

11. Other than in accordance with the Laws of the Game, under no circumstances is any match official to be approached, questioned or harassed in any way by any player or other squad member, whether before, during or after a match.
12. No player or other squad member shall publish or cause to be published (including on social media) or give any interview to the media by whatsoever medium which contains unreasonable criticism of the manner in which a match official has controlled a match. For the avoidance of doubt coaches and officials can comment on matters of fact during a match (including referees' decisions) but cannot question the character, integrity and competence of the match officials.

Hosts, Commercial Partners and Media

13. Each player and other squad member agrees that he shall attend such official functions and press and other PR functions as required under the Competition Rules. In addition, if so requested by the match or tournament organising body, a player or other squad member agrees to attend and give at least one press conference or interview:
 - (a) Prior to each match, provided that the request is reasonable;
 - (b) After each match; and
 - (c) At any other mutually agreed time;



14. Every player and other squad member agrees to be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and otherwise recorded during the match or tournament under the conditions and for the purposes determined from time to time by the RLIF/RLWC/RLEF/WRL including in relation to the promotion of the match or Tournament.

15. From time to time, RLIF/RLWC/RLEF/WRL may wish to use a player or other squad member's name, signature, voice and film and photographic portrayal, virtual and / or electronic representation, reputation, replica and all other characteristics and attributes of such player or other squad member (their "image") for promoting the match or tournament, including but not limited to, the World Cup, future rugby league world cups and/or as part of current or historical records or publications of or concerning the match or the Tournament. Each player and other squad member authorises and sub-licences their image for any such purposes to WRL, RLIF, RLEF and RLWC at no cost, provided that such use comprises reference to or portrayal of such a person as a member of the Participant's Squad at the match or tournament.

16. Every player and other squad member further agrees that WRL and match and tournament organisers shall be entitled to use (for purposes other than those set out in paragraph 15) and to permit its sponsors, commercial partners or suppliers the right to use their image without needing to obtain any further consent from that person provided always that: (a) any such use is limited to that person appearing and being portrayed as a member of a Participant's Squad; (b) their image shall not be used in such a way as to be construed as individual sponsorship by that person of, or endorsement by that person of, Tournament Partners and other commercial partners; and (c) any image must feature at least four current or past players or squad members (including the player or other squad member) with equal prominence. Where an image does not satisfy the requirements above, Tournament Organisers may not permit such use without first obtaining that player or squad member's express prior written consent.

17. Every player and other squad member agrees that he / she will co-operate with WRL, match and tournament organisers and tournament partners as reasonably required. Without limitation each player or other squad member shall agree not to:

(a) Assert any title to or claim to use, sell or exploit any match or tournament rights.

(b) Directly or indirectly allow or acquiesce so as to permit the use of their image to be used in any advertising or endorsement or for any commercial purpose (including without limitation the appearance of that player or other squad member in such advertisements or endorsements or for such commercial purposes in that player's playing kit or training kit) which involves a direct or indirect association with the named match or tournament and / or seek to exploit any connection therewith.

18. Every player and squad member acknowledges that any material(s) produced as a result of the exercise of the rights by RLIF/RLWC/RLEF/WRL in accordance with clauses 15 and 16 of this Code of Conduct in whatever formats and/or media, including any intellectual property rights and/or goodwill in such material(s), shall be owned (as between you on the one hand and WRL/match or tournament organisers and/or their respective assignees on the other hand) solely by the match or tournament organisers, WRL and / or their respective assignees.



19. Every player and other squad member shall:

(a) Ensure that he does not make any defamatory or derogatory statements or take part in any activities which are or might be derogatory to or are/or might otherwise be detrimental to the reputation, image or goodwill of any match or tournament partner.

(b) Disclose immediately in writing to the match or tournament director, details of any endorsements, promotions or similar activities with any competitor of any match or tournament partner.

20 In accordance with the match or tournament sponsorship agreements, it has been agreed that certain rights to players will be granted to match or tournament partners and that they shall have the right to certain personal appearances by squad members. Every player and squad member agrees to comply with these rights provided that the requests are reasonable in number and duration and reasonable notice is provided.

Players and Officials Dress

21 Every player and other squad member shall ensure that he is properly attired and, where appropriate, dressed in the apparel required by his participating nation in all public appearances as a player or squad member.

22 Every player or other squad member agrees that upon request from WRL or the match or tournament organisers he will remove or cover up any item of clothing, body garment, tattoo or other such product howsoever showing that is advertising a product, service or company that is engaged in the same business sector as a match, tournament partner or WRL.

Unlawful Conduct

23. During the Event Period, no player and squad member shall engage in any conduct that is against the law of the place where the conduct occurs.

Inducements

24. No player or squad member shall offer or receive a bonus or any form of inducement whether directly or indirectly and by whatever means to lose or draw a match or alter or influence their decision-making in a match or to ensure the occurrence of any incident in a match. Each player or other squad member shall inform the match or tournament director and WRL lead executive promptly: (i) of any approach made to them by any party suggesting that they participate in any act which would breach this paragraph 23; or (ii) if they are aware that any other individual has or intends to breach this paragraph 23.



Betting

25. No player or squad member shall place, accept or lay a bet (or any other form of financial speculation) on any match (for the avoidance of doubt whether or not their Participating Nation is involved in that match) or in relation to a tournament in any way (or permit any other person to do so for the player or squad member's direct or indirect benefit) or provide information or do any other act or thing which is calculated to or does assist others involved in any of the foregoing.

Discrimination

26. No player or squad member shall engage in discrimination on the grounds of age, ethnic origin, race, gender, special needs including learning and physical disabilities, class or social background, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, colour or political persuasion (any such conduct which is referred to as "**Discriminatory Behaviour**").

Gestures to Spectators

27. During any match or tournament period, no player or other squad member shall make any gesture to the crowds that may be considered obscene or alternatively which may be considered likely to incite the crowd to disorder (even if no such disorder occurs) or which is prejudicial to the interests of the game of Rugby League.

Language

28. During the match or tournament period, no player or other squad member shall subject any spectator member of the public, staff at hotel, ground staff or other person to foul and/or abusive language.

Unruly Behaviour

29. During the match or tournament period, no player or squad member shall behave in an unruly manner in any public place which for the avoidance of doubt shall include but not be limited to bars, hotels, airports, flights to and from the matches and tournaments, team buses, tunnel and dressing room areas.

Conduct Prejudicial to the Interests of the match or tournament and WRL

30. No player or other squad member shall behave in a manner which is prejudicial to the interests of the match or tournament, WRL, RLWC or the RLIF or which may cause hurt, annoyance or injury to the named parties.



Safety

33. During the match or tournament period, no player or other squad member shall fail to comply with any reasonable instruction of the Ground Safety Officer, Police Commander, Match or Tournament Director, or their lawful representative at any venue.

Proceedings for Breach

34. Where any player or other squad member has failed to comply with a provision of this Code of Conduct, proceedings may be taken against that player or squad member for that failure, and a penalty imposed. Any such proceedings and any sanctions imposed shall be in accordance with the rules set out in the Competition Rules and / or how the WRL sees fit.

Declaration of Player / Official:

I understand and agree to this Code of Conduct and agree that any breach may result in disciplinary action being taken.

Signed:

Name:

Date