



Codes of Conduct

Tauranga Blue Rovers Football Club

By registering with the Tauranga Blue Rovers Football Club (“TBR”, “Club”) you agree to abide by our codes of conduct outlined below.

Our Coaching Philosophy

Based on New Zealand and International research, New Zealand Football has adopted the “Balance is Better” approach which places the needs of children at the centre of the player development model. Children need different things at different ages, but if a child's need for fun, challenge, development, approval and friendship is not met, they will leave the game and often leave sport entirely.

For parents and coaches, the challenge is to change the focus of children’s football from trying to make it look like senior 11-a-side football, to the kind of football that meets the needs of children. Key ingredients include:

- Being aware that talent emerges at different ages and too many players are lost to sport before they get to shine.
- That coaching, training and games are age appropriate.
- Coaches are facilitators. They cannot make players do or be something they’re not, but they can give every player the same opportunities.
- Giving each player the opportunity to have success.
- Reassuring players that mistakes are a part of learning new things.
- Praising effort and improvement.
- Encouraging children to build friendships with their team.

Code of Conduct for Coaches and Volunteers

A coach’s primary responsibility is to provide an environment where players feel safe and welcome, can have fun, develop as footballers, make friends and grow a life-long love of sport. The performance of coaches is not measured in wins and losses but rather in what players learn in terms of skills, understanding, sportsmanship and resilience. Coaches are responsible to set the boundaries of acceptable behaviour for their players and parents at all times during a match.

Coaches will:

- Be organised. Players and parents feel more relaxed and comfortable when they see you are organised.
- Be consistent when dealing with players and parents.
- Remember that children don't intend to make mistakes - mistakes are a normal part of learning. Always praise effort and improvement.
- Build team spirit. Involve parents in your coaching, share your plans and approach, ask them to help and participate.
- Support every player to be the best footballer they can be.

- Never use abusive or obscene language and never abuse a player mentally, verbally, or display physical anger / violence towards another individual involved in your sport.
- Have respect for the authority of the referee, our opponents on match days, any officials or other volunteers. Football wouldn't happen without them.
- Aim to teach the children the rules of the game, fair play and positive behaviour.
- Focus on fun for ages 4-7, players skills for ages 9-12, players' understanding of the game ages 13-19, and then performance for ages 19+.
- Inspect the playing area for hazards and generally make practice sessions and matches as safe as possible for the children.
- If a child is injured, attempt to provide the appropriate first aid and notify parents or designated caregiver. Consideration should also be given to calling emergency services via 111 service if required.
- Follow NZ Football's Working with Children and Vulnerable People guidelines.
- Will not allow a child to take part in a practice session or a match if they are injured or unwell.
- Will not leave a child unattended at a practice session or a game.
- Will only allow a child to leave a practice session or a game if a responsible person collects them, unless you were given written (or verbal) permission for the child to leave on their own.

Code of Conduct for Parents/Caregivers

Parents/Carers should:

- Be your child's best fan and support them unconditionally. Don't forget to tell them how much you enjoy watching them play.
- Remember that mistakes are a normal part of learning. Help your child to focus on effort and improvement.
- Respect the coach. Treat them how you would like to be treated. Ask them how they would like you to support them.
- Do not criticise your child's coach to your child or to other parents. If you are not happy with the coach you should follow the Club's Concerns and Complaints Policy.
- Support all of the players in your child's squad. Do not criticise other players in your child's team to your child or to other parents.
- Do not criticise the opponents, their parents or any officials.
- Never audibly dispute a referee's decision. They will make mistakes occasionally - we all do. If you abuse or shout at the referee you are breaking the rules of the game and risk generating a fine for the Club; in extreme circumstances the Club could even be expelled from the League.
- Parents/carers must not coach from the touchline during matches or training. Leave this to the coach or you may cause confusion and erode your child's confidence.
- Parents/carers must not enter the field of play (unless in emergencies).
- Develop a responsibility in your child to pack their own kit, clean their boots and take a drink bottle (full of water only) to practice and games.
- Encourage your child to speak with the coach. If your child is having difficulties in training or games or cannot attend training etc, encourage them to speak directly to the coach/es. This "responsibility taking" is a big part of becoming a mature person. By handling off the field tasks, your child is claiming ownership of all aspects of the game.

Please remember, children's football won't and shouldn't look like senior football.

Code of Conduct for Players

Players should:

- Work hard, train and play to the best of your ability.
- Have a positive attitude and encourage others to do the same.
- Arrive at trainings and games on time and ready to start.

- Display self-control. Never use foul or abusive language, don't initiate or escalate verbal or physical fighting.
- Respect teammates, treat them how you would like to be treated.
- Respect the opposition, if they weren't there you wouldn't be able to have a game. Treat the opposition how you would like to be treated.
- Respect referees, they have a difficult job, treat them how you would like to be treated.
- Always wear shin guards.
- Clean your own boots!
- Play according to the laws and spirit of the game.