



Code of Conduct
Rugby players

March 2026

Scope

This Code of Conduct applies to everyone who is involved as a rugby player or high-performance rugby player in activities for Rugby Netherlands.

Introduction

Norms and values in the practice of rugby are of great importance. Rugby must remain a place where athletes come together to play with enjoyment and fulfilment. This requires clear rules of conduct, which are actively promoted by the Board and Committees.

What happens if someone does not follow the rules of this Code of Conduct?
Violations of the rules may result in sanctions.

Safety and Responsibility

As a rugby player, take responsibility for ensuring a safe sporting environment and contribute to an inclusive atmosphere in which everyone feels welcome.

Respect and Equal Treatment

- Recognise the basic needs of everyone within the club: each individual has the right to privacy, safety, human dignity, and bodily integrity.
- Act honestly, transparently, reliably, and respectfully toward others, and treat everyone equally.
- Refrain from discriminatory, demeaning, or (sexually) intimidating remarks, bullying, and any other form of physical, verbal, or non-verbal transgressive behaviour.
- Do not discriminate based on religion, beliefs, political views, origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, cultural background, age, or any other characteristic.
- Be mindful of vulnerable individuals and groups.

Rules and Agreements

- Be honest and show sportsmanship. In addition to the rules of the game, know the rules of the location, the club, and the (inter)national federation, and act accordingly.
- Make clear agreements in a timely manner and honour them.
- Handle information carefully, particularly information about the team and fellow athletes, especially when this involves potentially sensitive matters that may harm others.
- Treat the environment respectfully, such as locker rooms, the field, and any equipment provided to you.

Addressing and Reporting

The basic principle is that everyone speaks up when they observe unsafe or potentially transgressive situations.

Report suspicions or signs of doping violations, match-fixing, or (sexual) intimidation to your coach, Rugby Netherlands' reporting point (meldpunt@rugby.nl), or the Centre for Safe Sport Netherlands (CVSN).

If you feel unsafe or experience situations that conflict with your values or norms, discuss them with your trainer-coach or technical director, or contact the Rugby Netherlands reporting point or CVSN.

Favors and Gifts

Do not accept favours, gifts, services, or payments from opponents, coaches, board members, or third parties in exchange for doing or omitting something that compromises the integrity of the sport. Do not offer such benefits yourself.

If something is offered to you, report it to your trainer-coach, technical director, or Rugby Netherlands' reporting point. Be open and transparent in your actions.

Doping

Follow the rules strictly. Ensure that you are fully informed about doping regulations and your related rights and obligations. Know the risks of intentional and unintentional use of prohibited substances.

Where applicable:

- Cooperate with doping controls
- Submit whereabouts accurately and on time
- Complete required education and e-learning
- Check medications and supplements thoroughly
- Do not use drugs

You are always personally responsible.

Matchfixing

Know and respect the rules regarding matchfixing. Never bet on matches or competitions in which you can influence the outcome, and never bet on youth competitions. Do not manipulate results and do not share confidential information. Report approaches or suspicions to Rugby Netherlands' reporting point or the CVSN. Participate in education and awareness training when required.

Role Model

Be aware of your role as an example to others, appropriate to your position and level. Pay attention to your behaviour, language, and appearance — including on social media. Discuss disagreements directly with those involved before making public statements that could discredit the sport or others.