

HIGHER EDUCATION BEHAVIOURS CHARTER

PROTECT OUR GAME: SEASON 2026-27

PROTECT
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GAME



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OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of the *Higher Education Behaviours Charter - Protect our Game* encompasses four core principles:

1. To ensure our higher education rugby union environments, and standards of behaviour, both on and off the field, are as safe and inclusive as possible for all
2. To raise awareness of how to identify examples of poor behaviour when they occur
3. To create a safe and confidential reporting mechanism for all, to ensure we proactively investigate, and where necessary sanction such incidents resulting in swift and resolute action
4. To follow the [World Rugby Values](#)

For these principles to be effectively executed, this charter will target four key stakeholders within the higher education game, namely, our *institutions*, *staff*, *players* and *spectators*. As detailed below, each stakeholder has an associated and accountable subset of principles to adhere to in order to maximise the success and impact of the charter.

These principles and actions are drawn from several sources across the home nations, the SRFU, BUCS and other sporting organisations. They exemplify the expectations of how the HE game should be able to flourish in accordance with the charter. Staff, students, players, volunteers, supporters and spectators alike should now be able to identify behaviours that run contrary to the outlined ambition of the charter and should be confident in reporting these.



INSTITUTION EXPECTATIONS

As a BUCS-affiliated institution, we understand the importance of making rugby union a positive and inclusive environment and that we are responsible for the behaviours and actions of our students and spectators. To support this, we aspire to;

1. Make our culture as open and inclusive as possible
2. Abide by the spirit and values of the game of rugby union
3. Hold ourselves accountable for our actions and of those representing our club
4. Call out instances of our own spectators', staff and players' poor behaviour
5. Actively and in good time, report instances of poor behaviour at matches through the appropriate channels with honesty and transparency
6. Not engage in disrespectful or negative activity nor display signs or banners which use inflammatory, discriminatory or inappropriate language
7. Ensure our social media channels and posts reflect positive rugby values and content will refrain from being disrespectful, negative or inflammatory

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STAFF EXPECTATIONS

As a member of staff of a BUCS-affiliated institution who cares deeply about the sport and who wants to uphold the values of rugby union, I aspire to;

1. Be an exemplar of the principles of fair play and the values and laws of the game
2. Show courtesy, consideration, kindness and respect to players, the opposition, match officials and spectators when playing home and away
3. Be mindful of creating and maintaining an inclusive environment
4. Be an active listener
5. Challenge all instances of negative behaviour
6. To treat all colleagues, partners and external staff of our stakeholders with empathy and respect whilst in our rugby union environments

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PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

As a player who loves the game, I aspire to;

1. Show courtesy, consideration, kindness and respect for my teammates, the opposition, match officials and visitors when playing home and away
2. Treat all my teammates equally and respect other teammates' rights
3. Uphold the principles of fair play and the Laws of the Game
4. Be open to talk to others about what makes them different and unique
5. Be positive in every contribution I make in the club
6. Make sure that all team members are included in club activities
7. Recognise that banter (teasing/joking talk) can become bullying behaviour. If a teammate asks me to stop, I will
8. Challenge negative language and behaviours (e.g., racist, disablist, homophobic)
9. Intervene safely, not confrontationally
10. Report any anti-social behaviour to the club officials
11. Accept victory and defeat, success and failure with dignity

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SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Crowds play a huge role creating an atmosphere which motivates and inspires the players on the pitch and a positive crowd, behaving appropriately, can make a match truly memorable.

As a spectator who wants to contribute positively to this vision and experience, I aspire to;

1. Always be respectful towards all players and coaching staff
2. Be respectful towards my fellow supporters, both from my team and the opposition
3. Remain outside the field of play and to not confront players or a match official at any time
4. Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour
5. Report any anti-social behaviour to the stewards on duty, associated institutions and relevant governing body where necessary
6. Be mindful of the image and reputation of rugby and support its values and inclusivity
7. Be an active listener
8. Hold myself and my peers to account

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REPORTING

If, at any point during your experience of rugby union in a higher education environment setting, you would like to address and or report any incidents of negative behaviour, please contact the BUCS office. Or scan the QR code for all available resources on the Higher Education Behaviours Charter – Protect Our Game.

Email: discipline@bucs.org.uk



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