

**HELLINGLY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB C.I.C.**

Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, East Sussex. BN27 4DJ

**POLICY FOR YOUNG PLAYERS MATCH OFFICIALS**

The following Code is designed to promote the elements of enjoyment and satisfaction, the contribution that can be made by non-players and to remind all people involved with the game that there are certain standards of fair play and conduct that should be maintained at all times.

**Match officials should**:

1. Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players.
2. Provide positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner during games.
3. Emphasise the spirit of the game.
4. Appreciate the needs of the young players before the needs of the sport.
5. Understand the physical, social and psychological development of young players.
6. Be a positive role model. You set an example, and as such, comments you receive should be positive and supportive.
7. Look to self-improvement e.g. participation in Mini or National courses.

**Match officials must:**

1. Recognise that safety of young players is paramount.
2. Explain decisions – all young players are still learning.
3. Always penalise foul play.
4. Play advantage were ever possible in order to let the game flow.
5. Show empathy for the age and ability of young players.
6. Be consistent and objective.
7. Ensure that verbal abuse from players, coaches or spectators is not tolerated and is dealt with by club officials immediately.
8. Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU Child Protection Guidance policies and procedures.